



# Straits Primary School

## Policy for Drug Education and the management of Drugs in school

This policy has been written following the 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' document, 2012. The guidance suggests that our policy focuses on matters relating to drug education, the management of drugs within the school community and supporting the needs of pupils with regards to drugs and drug policy development. Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances.

### Key Points

- Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services;
- Schools are strongly advised to have a written drugs policy to act as a central reference point for all school staff;
- It is helpful for a senior member of staff to have responsibility for this policy and for liaising with the local police and support services.

### The Role of Schools

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal, social and emotional wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues.

### RATIONALE

Straits Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture.

Young children are exposed to messages about drug use from an early age. The messages they receive from television and the media tend to glamorise the use of drugs. They are likely to have seen parents or older brothers and sisters smoking, drinking or taking pills and medicines. Some children may have already tried alcohol or cigarettes and taken prescribed medicines or other drugs. Inevitably older children want to pass on their knowledge and experiences in an effort to try to influence younger children; these experiences are likely to include their experiments with drugs.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person', which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Research cites personal inadequacy, a lack of self-esteem and peer pressure as the main reasons for drug misuse among young people. This places a responsibility on the school to 'better prepare young people for adult life.' (Education Reform (NI) Order 1989)

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum and is delivered through: PSHE lessons; curriculum areas such as science; school assembly themes; or specific events such as workshops.

## **THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES**

The school's policy on drugs education covers these substances:

- *alcohol and tobacco*
- *'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches*
- *prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers*
- *volatile substances such as glues and aerosols*
- *illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy*
- *new psychoactive substances ("legal highs")*

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs. Procedures for handling prescribed medicines are outlined in our First Aid and the Administration of medicines policy and referred to as part of our induction procedures.

## **PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS**

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary or refer to the designated members of staff
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident

The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (Paul Freear – Head teacher or in his absence the deputy head, Dan Wade), who will contact the juvenile liaison officer from the police in this area. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the DSL. One copy will be sent to the relevant bodies and a copy will be retained for the school's confidential file. The Board of Governors will also be informed.

## **Searching**

*Advice on searching and confiscations can be found in*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

Searching can play a critical role in ensuring that schools are safe environments for all pupils and staff. It is a vital measure to safeguard and promote staff and pupil welfare, and to maintain high standards of behaviour through which pupils can learn and thrive.

Head teachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil may have a prohibited item or any other item that the school rules identify as an item which may be searched for.

Prohibited items are:

- knives and weapons;
- alcohol;
- illegal drugs;
- stolen items;
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:

- to commit an offence, or
- to cause personal injury to, or damage to property of; any person (including the pupil).
- an article specified in regulations:
  - tobacco and cigarette papers;
  - fireworks; and
  - pornographic images.

Schools should reinforce the whole-school approach by building and maintaining positive relationships with parents. Parents should always be informed of any search for a prohibited item that has taken place, and the outcome of the search as soon as is practicable. A member of staff should inform the parents of what, if anything, has been confiscated and the resulting action the school has taken, including any sanctions applied.

***Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school is advised to make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action.***

### **Confiscation**

An authorised staff member carrying out a search can confiscate any item that they have reasonable grounds for suspecting:

- poses a risk to staff or pupils;
- is prohibited, or identified in the school rules for which a search can be made; or
- is evidence in relation to an offence

***A senior member of staff should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents.***

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is considered to be either:

- A situation in which a pupil or staff is in danger, or
- A sequence of events which require urgent attention.

### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

The spirit of confidentiality is of primary importance to those who work professionally with young people in a trusting and secure environment. However the legal requirements of drug legislation will mean that in certain circumstances there will be a change in the convention of confidentiality.

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents.

### **DEALING WITH THE MEDIA**

If the school receives an enquiry from the media, the caller should be referred only to the Head teacher (who will seek advice from the local authority designated officer).

When responding to the media, the privacy of the pupil should be respected, they are only to give short, factual statements, and the concluding statement should be positive, and reassuring. No further comments should be given.

### **THE PLACE OF DRUGS EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM**

Drug education should not be seen as a one-off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education provides opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, their effects of health and lifestyle. These issues are addressed through the school PSHE programme. Resources used are also available from [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) and [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk).

Drugs education is specifically included within the programmes of study for science, and within other subjects, such as Religious Education, English, and Physical Education, there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives. In addition to these curriculum opportunities, school assembly themes or specific events such as workshops can be used to focus on these issues.

## **AIMS**

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self-esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

## **OBJECTIVES**

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

We will ensure that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum. Where possible staff receive in-service training on drug issues.

If the school engages the use of outside agencies to help delivery the drug education programme the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head teacher has given their approval for the use of the outside agency.
- The staff from the agency have been vetted in relation to safeguarding.

## **LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE**

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. They are informed about the school drug policy, via our website, and they should be involved fully in the education of their child. This is especially so with the drug education programmes. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible.

The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

We have developed good working relationships with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

### **THE ROLE OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION CO-ORDINATOR**

The designated persons (DSL and PSHE co-ordinator) are responsible for updating and co-ordinating all issues pertaining to drugs education programmes within the school. Their role includes:

- Liaising with all staff on drug education matters, for curriculum purposes
- Organising training for staff as appropriate
- Liaising with outside agencies for curriculum purposes

### **THE ROLE OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

The DSL is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. Their role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the police on any drug related incident
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident
- The induction of new staff as appropriate
- Liaison with staff who have responsibility for pastoral care and delivery of the drug education programme
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy, when required

### **GDPR**

This Policy adheres to the principles under data protection law. For further information please review the School's Data Protection Policy published on the School Website.

### **MONITORING AND EVALUATING**

The Governing body will monitor the implementation and impact of this policy ensuring that procedures are being applied - this will occur through governor updates (provided by the DSL/Head teacher) and monitoring any drug related incidents (whole school and individual pupils).

This policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances; curriculum development and trends in drugs use.

Signed by:

Chair of Governing Body: .....

Date: .....

Head teacher: .....

Date: .....

Agreed at the Full Governing Body Meeting on: .....

## **APPENDIX 1- Useful Organisations**

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems. Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk) Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk) Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk) Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: <http://www.drugeducationforum.com>

**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600  
Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk>

**Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>