



DRUG EDUCATION AND INCIDENT POLICY

Policy reviewed and agreed by: Teaching, Learning and Inclusion Committee
Date: September 2026
Next review: September 2027

Purpose of Drug Education Policy

The purpose of this Drug Education policy document is to provide guidance on all matters relating to drug education, the management of drugs within the school community and supporting the needs of pupils about drugs.

The policy is based on principles that underpin good practice in drugs education and managing drugs incidents. It is intended to outline a planned, co-ordinated and considered response to drugs.

It includes sections on the Context for Drug Education, the Planning and Teaching of Drug Education, Good management of Drugs within the school community and responding to drugs incidents.

Guidance

Department for Education and the Association of Chief Police Officers; Drug Advice for Schools (2012)
Updated 2017

Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004/09

DfE Supporting pupils with medical conditions at school- Statutory guidance August 2017

The Association of Chief Police Officers – Drugs: Guidance for police working with schools and colleges

Drug Scope (Drug Education Forum) School drug policy review process

A good school drug policy will:

- clarify the school's responsibilities and the legal requirements;
- give a clear view on the use of drugs in school;
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of the school community;
- support young people;
- explain to the whole community the school's approach to drugs;
- give curriculum guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring drug education;
- support and train staff in the delivery of drug education;
- provide consistency in the management of drug incidents;

- ensure that the school's ethos and values are reflected in the drug education curriculum and in responses to incidents;
- create a basis for evaluation.

Oxford Drug and Alcohol Action Team – local information:

<http://www.oxfordshiredaat.org/youngpeople/>

Oxfordshire Early Intervention Centres:

<http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/early-intervention-service>

Substance Misuse Service in Abingdon Tel: 01865 328400

Designated member of staff responsible for drug policy: Angela Wheatcroft

Designated member of staff responsible for drug education and curriculum planning: Hannah Grey

Designated senior member of staff responsible for the management of drug-related incidents: Angela Wheatcroft

Governor lead on drug issues: Safeguarding Governor

Goring Church of England (Aided) School has a distinctive Christian ethos that is at the centre of school life. We provide an inclusive, supportive and caring environment, shaped by Christian values in which children can learn and flourish.

Ethos of our school

The philosophy of our school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all pupils and staff are encouraged to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Provision of drugs education at our school takes account of pupil's views and opinions, so that it is both appropriate to their age and ability, and relevant to their particular circumstances.

Rationale

It is acknowledged that our school community plays an important role in tackling drug misuse by providing drug education and pastoral support to all pupils. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in our society where a wide range of drugs exist. We recognize that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Relationship to other school policies

This policy is linked to other school policies, for example pupil behaviour and discipline, medical needs, confidentiality, anti-bullying, health and safety, equal opportunities and safeguarding.

External guidance and advice

The school actively co-operates and seeks support with other agencies such as the Thames Valley Police, Social and Health Care Services, Local Education Authority, Health and other appropriate Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to manage incidents of drug use and misuse. In all our planning and responses to drug issues we take careful account of LEA and national guidance, in particular *Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DFES February 2004)*

Definition of drugs

In our school a drug is defined as ***'a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'***. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, volatile

substances, over the counter and prescription medicines. (*Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DFES February 2004)* and *DfE& APCO Drug Advice for Schools (DFES 2012/2017)*)

Purpose of our School Drug Policy

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school providing accurate information.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- To support the school's PSHE policy in helping to maintain the safety and well-being of pupils, staff and visitors.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incident that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of these involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

The aim of drug education in our school

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their **knowledge, skills, attitudes** and **understanding** about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Drug education is an important aspect of the curriculum for our school. The intention is to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:
 - the short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.
- Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

The role of the headteacher and governing body

The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing body, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The headteacher, therefore, should be notified immediately of any drugs related incident. Staff should make safe any evidence or the scene of such an incident including an assessment of whether it is safe to remove items or if best left to professional help. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately trained and supported.

The Safeguarding Governor is the link governor for Drugs Education.

The role of the PSHE coordinator

The PSHE coordinator is responsible for coordinating Drugs Education. These responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that the policy is regularly evaluated and reviewed;
- Implementing monitoring systems in school.
- Coordinating links with outside agencies.
- Useful teaching resources –
 - PSHE Association <https://www.pshe-association.org.uk>
 - FRANK <http://talktofrank.com>
 - Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention service (ADEPIS) <http://mentor-adepis.org>

Dissemination of the policy

The policy will be distributed to all staff and governors and is available to parents/carers, pupils and relevant outside agencies. It is included in induction sessions for new staff, pupils, parents and governors and this policy is a regular item in staff, SMT and governor meetings to monitor the progress of drug education.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields, swimming pool, nature garden and bike sheds, and extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time (e.g., premises of a school trip or visit).

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy, as necessary.

Illegal drugs, smoking and alcohol on the school premises

It is understood by the whole school community that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the school boundaries is unacceptable.

The school is designated a 'no smoking' area for staff and visitors, and we look to everyone, including parents/carers to support this policy. If pupils are found smoking on site, the Headteacher will be informed immediately.

Alcohol may only be consumed on the school premises for events organised by members of staff, governors or PTA, which take place after the end of the school day. Verbal permission must be obtained from the senior management team prior to the event. The organisers are responsible for ensuring that all those consuming alcohol are over the age of 18. Staff should not drink alcohol during normal school hours or whilst supervising children.

To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally (see Appendix C).

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of “sniffable” products.

Administering and Storage of Medication

If children require medication to be administered at school, it will only be permissible with explicit permission and instructions from parents and carers, who will be required to complete the relevant form (kept in the school office). This will record the time and dose needed to be administered during the day. Any medication which requires refrigeration should be handed in to the school office upon arrival and will be stored in a fridge. Other medication will be stored in a locked cabinet in the main office.

Non prescribed medication such as anti-histamines and paracetamol can only be administered during the school day if agreed with office staff and if the relevant forms have been completed by a parent or carer.

Epinephrine autoinjectors (also known as epipens) and asthma inhalers will be stored in a labelled box in a clearly marked cupboard in classrooms. Individual medical plans for the administering of Epinephrine autoinjectors will be stored in the boxes in the classrooms. Any doses (including how many puffs of an asthma inhaler) administered should be recorded on the relevant form by the attending adult. A child should never be left alone to administer medicine.

If children are taken offsite, any relevant medication should be taken with them. It will be the responsibility of class teachers and/or trip leaders to ensure this happens.

Breakfast and After School Club will use Epinephrine autoinjectors stored in classrooms.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers to ensure that medication is in date and returned after holidays.

Drug incident: where substance misuse or supply is suspected.

The first concern whilst managing drugs is the health and safety of our school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

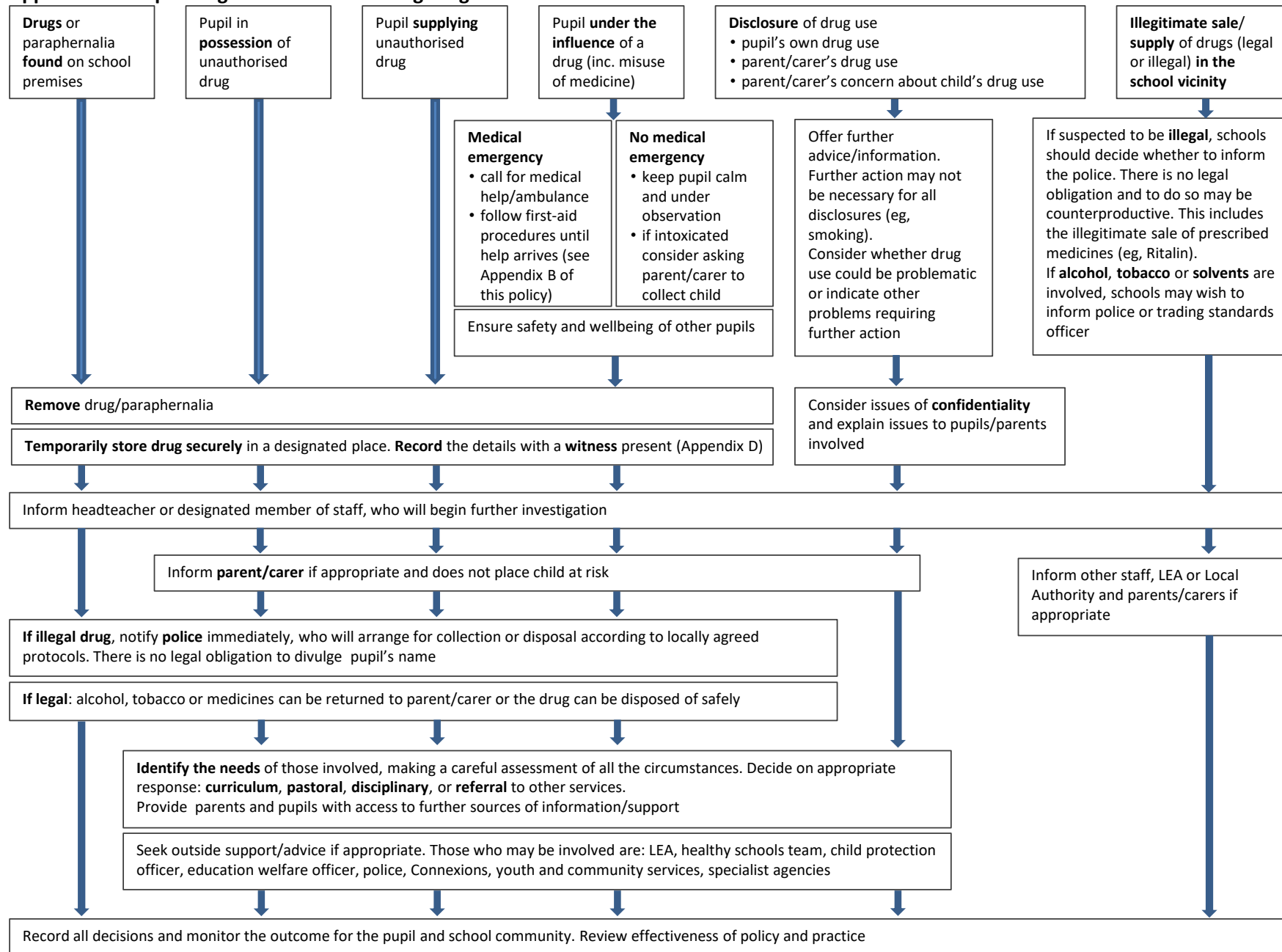
Staff will follow the flow chart in Appendix A of this policy, found in the *Drugs: Guidance for Schools* (DFES, February 2004/09), pages 117–118. See also Appendix B for procedures in a medical emergency.

The Headteacher will then assess the school’s legal requirements, this may include the involvement of appropriate outside agencies, and the proposed school response, the involvement of parents/carers, the arrangements for recording and informing other agencies, and the Health & Safety procedures (see Health & Safety policy) including safe handling of suspect substances.

All incidents will be recorded on a school incident form (*see Appendix D*).

The consequences of such incidents involving pupils will follow broadly the same procedures as laid down in the school Behaviour Policy.

Appendix A: Responding to incidents involving drugs



Source: Department for Education and Skills (2004), 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools', February, Appendix 8, pp. 117–18.

APPENDIX B: DRUGS SITUATIONS – MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

The procedures for an emergency apply when a child or young person or others are at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated or who has taken a harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

Your main responsibility is for any pupil at immediate risk, but you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of others. Put into practice your school's first aid procedures.

IF IN ANY DOUBT, CALL MEDICAL HELP.

ALWAYS:

- assess the situation
- if it is a medical emergency, send for medical help and an ambulance

BEFORE ASSISTANCE ARRIVES: If the person is conscious:

- ask the person what has happened and to identify any drug used
- collect any drug sample and any vomit for medical analysis
- **do not** induce vomiting
- keep the person under observation, warm and quiet

BEFORE ASSISTANCE ARRIVES: If the person is unconscious:

- ensure that the person can breathe and place in recovery position
- **do not move the person** if they have fallen, as a fall may have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- **do not** give anything by mouth
- **do not** attempt to make the person sit or stand
- **do not** leave the person unattended or in the charge of another pupil.

WHEN MEDICAL HELP ARRIVES:

- pass on any available information and any vomit and drug samples.

APPENDIX C: COLLECTION OF HYPODERMIC NEEDLES

Schools and colleges should be vigilant in checking premises and grounds for health and safety hazards including signs of any discarded equipment, which may be drug related. If needles or syringes are found they should not be touched.

STOP NEEDLES

TAKE ACTION!

STOP NEEDLES

If you find a needle or syringe
DO PHONE!

- If it's in a public place **PLEASE** phone the District Council to arrange to have it picked up.
- Remember the exact location – if possible stay at the site until the Collection Team arrive.
- Tell the owner if it's on private land or in a building.
- If you want to do something at your own risk, cover with a strong box or drinks can.
- Don't put the needle / syringe in a litter bin, or kick it down a drain.

DON'T TOUCH!

Oxfordshire

What are the hazards?

If a **skin puncture** is caused by a **hypodermic needle** the injured person is potentially infected with viruses including **Hepatitis B and C**, and **HIV**.

If you find a needle or syringe:

DO PHONE! DON'T TOUCH!

- If it's in a public place **PLEASE** phone the District Council to arrange to have it picked up:
- Remember the exact location if possible stay at the site until the Collection Team arrive.
- Tell the owner if it's on private land or in a building.
- If you want to do something at your own risk, cover with a strong box or drinks can.

DO PHONE! DON'T TOUCH!

- Don't put the needle / syringe in a litter bin.

If you receive a needlestick injury:

- Encourage the injury to bleed by gently squeezing.

DO NOT SUCK THE WOUND!

- Wash the area with soap and running water for at least five minutes.
- Cover with a waterproof plaster.
- Immediately visit your Doctor or Accident and Emergency Department where you should enquire about the relevant immunisation.

Collection Team Numbers

Cherwell:
01295 221940

West Oxfordshire:
01993 861020
(24 hours)

Oxford City:
0800 783 1957
(24 hours)

Vale of White Horse:
01235 520202

South Oxfordshire:
01491 823416

01235 821886
(After 5pm and at weekends)

01491 824033
(After 5pm and at weekends)

Design: justin@inspired-graphics.co.uk Print by PrintGinger November 2004

APPENDIX D: Record of incident involving unauthorised drug use

1. For help and advice, contact the LA
2. Complete this form WITHOUT identifying the pupil involved
3. Copy the form
4. Send the copy within 24 hours of the incident to the LA
5. KEEP the original, adding the pupil's name and form – store securely

Tick to indicate the category:

Drug or paraphernalia found ON school premises

Emergency/Intoxication

Pupil in possession of unauthorised drug

Pupil supplying unauthorised drug on school premises

☐ Pupil disclosure of drug use

☐ Disclosure of parent/carer drug use

☐ Parent/care expresses concern

☐ Incident OFF school premises

☐☐☐☐

Name of pupil * :	Name of school:
Pupil's form * : (*for school records only)	Time of incident:: am/pm
Age of pupil: MALE / FEMALE	Date of incident:
Ethnicity of pupil ** :	
Tick box if second or subsequent incident involving same pupil	Report form completed by:

First Aid given? YES NO

First Aid given by:

Ambulance/Doctor called YES NO

Called by: Time:

Drug involved (if known): (eg. Alcohol, paracetamol, Ecstasy)
Senior staff involved:

Drug found/removed? YES / NO

Where found/seized:

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Name and signature of witness:

.....

.....

Disposal arranged with (police/parents/other):

.....

.....

At time:

If police, incident reference number:

.....

Name of parent/carer informed * :	(* for school records only)
Informed by:	At time:

Brief description of incident (including any physical symptoms):

Other action taken: (e.g. Connexions or other agency involved, Educational Psychologist report requested, case conference called, pupils/staff informed, sanction imposed, LA/GP/Police consulted)