



IGNITE INNOVATE INSPIRE

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

May 2020

Reviewed in September 2022

***'If we teach today's students how we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow.'* John Dewey**

Curriculum Vision: Why we have drugs and alcohol policy

At Monkhouse, we believe all children will be ambitious, courageous, reflective and kind so that they fulfill their unique potential and become active members of the wider global community.

The policy has been developed using national and local guidance, including 'Drugs – Guidance for Schools' DfES 2004, NHSS guidelines, LA guidelines, National Curriculum, the framework for PHSCE, and QCA curriculum guidance on Drug, Tobacco and Alcohol Education 2003.

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health & safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers and the wider community.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises. Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents.
- Reflect the schools approach to health as part of the NHSS.

The drug policy applies to the school and playing fields including pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers, and anyone else visiting the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

This policy uses the definition that a drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

The term 'drugs' includes: All illegal drugs, all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

At Monkhouse, we find it wholly unacceptable within the school premises or grounds to introduce, sell or use illegal drugs or to misuse legal drugs or substances. Appropriate steps will be taken to deal with any drug-related incidents which occur.

If a drug-related incident occurs staff should:

- Inform Head Teacher and/or responsible member of staff.
- Inform parent/carer providing this does not place the child at risk. (On advice from the Head Teacher.)
- Legal substances can be returned to the parent/carer or disposed of safely.
- If a disclosure is made by/about a child or carer, advice or information should be offered and the usual safeguarding procedures would apply.
- Assess whether further action is necessary e.g. is it putting the child at risk.
- Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to another agency.
- Provide pupil and carer with access to further forms of support.
- Provide safety information in school, for example if a discarded syringe were to be found children should be warned of the dangers as a matter of priority and what actions they should take.
- Seek outside support if necessary e.g. LA, school health team, child protection officer, EWO, police etc.

In the case of illegitimate sale of legal or illegal drugs, the Head Teacher will decide whether to inform the police – it is not a legal obligation to do so. All decisions and actions should be recorded. The outcome for the pupil and school community should be monitored and the effectiveness of the policy and practice assessed. Permanent exclusion of a pupil is seen as a last resort and highly unlikely within a primary school setting.

In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident, the following procedures should be followed :

- Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call an ambulance and follow First Aid procedures if necessary.
- Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container.
- Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles.
- Temporarily store drugs/paraphernalia in a secure place.

Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Head Teacher will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent/carer is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Head Teacher will make a decision as to whether the police should be called.

What drug and alcohol policy looks like in school

The school has a policy on the administration of prescription medicines when necessary, which conforms to LA guidelines. Personal named prescription can be administered by members of staff when parents have given permission and where medical instruction is evident. These are administered in the first aid room with two members of staff present. All medicines are locked in

a cabinet in the first aid room. Any medicines administered are recorded and the remaining medicine counted when given.

The school's drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility for making informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Specific aims of the Drug Education Policy are:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To foster and develop self-esteem.
- To provide accurate information.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.

The aims of imparting knowledge/understanding, skills and attitudes will be fulfilled through the teaching of the Science, Life Skills and PE curricula and through developing the whole school ethos.

Our curriculum focuses on what is healthy and unhealthy for your body and in making informed choices. Drug education should help pupils make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle, and they should be involved in active learning experiences. All staff working with children should be aware of any worries and concerns that individuals may have, and ensure that children get appropriate support.

Assessment and Monitoring

The member of staff responsible for drug related issues will be sent on appropriate training courses and will cascade information to staff. **Life Skills lead and Science lead** have responsibility for assessing the impact of the drug and alcohol curriculum and will review policies annually.

Confidentiality

Teachers and staff cannot, and should not, promise total confidentiality in drug related issues to pupils or parents/carers. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to: Child protection and Co-operating with a police investigation.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on without the pupil knowing this information; where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the Head Teacher will take the decision as to whether parents/carers should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident. As we operate with primary aged children, parental involvement will be used unless this is seen to place a child in danger.