



DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY

REVIEW DATE: AUTUMN 2025

NEXT REVIEW DATE: AUTUMN 2027

South Farnham Educational Trust

Drugs & Alcohol Policy

1. INTRODUCTION

This is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies for the teaching and learning of Drugs and Alcohol Education. It was developed through a process of consultation between Staff and Governors and Trustees.

This policy reflects the guidance of national bodies i.e. DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies.

2. AIMS

The overall aim of drug education in school is to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes to enable them to be able to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

3. OBJECTIVES

- to provide accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs.
- to provide opportunities to examine attitudes and values to drug use.
- to promote the development of personal and social skills relating to health behaviour and the opportunity to practise them.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

4. SAFEGUARDING

Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services.

5. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- Drug – This document uses the term to refer to any psychotropic substance: all legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco, all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over the counter and prescription medicines.
- Drug use – The consumption of any drug. All drug use, including medicinal use, carries the potential for harm.
- Drug misuse – Drug taking through which an alteration in mental state may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.
- Drug abuse – Drug taking which harms health or functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

6. DRUG & ALCOHOL EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

Drug and Alcohol Education is provided within a programme of P.S.H.E. (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) where wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed and where drug misuse and prevention is but one component. Specific drug related information is also provided within the statutory science curriculum (See Science Policy).

Drug and alcohol education is taught within the curriculum during PSHE. At primary level, in Year 4, pupils become aware of commonly available substances and drugs that are legal and illegal and can describe some of the effects and risks of these. By Year 6 they can make judgements and decisions and can list some ways of resisting negative peer pressure around issues affecting their health and wellbeing as laid out in the Ofsted Inspection Framework.

At secondary level, Drug and alcohol education is taught within the curriculum in *My World* lessons and on *Deep Learning Days*. In Year 7, students are made aware of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, what it means to become addicted to them and the impact of smoking and vaping. In Year 8, students are made aware of the legal classification of drugs and alcohol, the law relating to drug possession and supplying them and the consequences of using illicit drugs on their body, mind, relationships and the wider community. In Year 9, students are made aware of different types of illicit drugs, are guided how to manage peer pressure in relation to trying drugs, how trying some 'softer' drugs can lead to trying more dangerous ones and the addiction that comes with trying them. In Year 10, students are made aware of the way drugs and alcohol make people engage in more risky behaviour, particularly sexual behaviour and how the risky behaviour can reduce life opportunities; they also revisit the legal implications of taking in illicit drugs and consuming alcohol. In addition, they retrieve all prior learning about drugs, alcohol and tobacco and debate whether alcohol should be illegal.

The school acknowledges that a positive, health promoting ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in doing so helps to build self-esteem and self-image which may help a pupil to cope more effectively in drug related situations. They understand these situations affect emotional health and well-being.

7. VISITING SPEAKERS

Visiting speakers from the local community make a valuable contribution to the programme. Their input is carefully planned to fit into and complement the curriculum.

8. TEACHING & LEARNING METHODS

In keeping with the Trust's approach to P.S.H.E., a variety of teaching and learning methods are used which are appropriate to the topic and needs of the pupils (see Teaching and Learning Policy). These strategies enable pupils to:

- place new learning in the context of previous experience.
- explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values in the context of new learning.
- apply new learning to other situations.
- relate new knowledge to current behaviour, to be able to make and act on informed choices.

- actively consider the implications of the learning for themselves, society and the environment.

9. MONITORING & EVALUATION

The PSHE team will monitor the delivery of the curriculum through observation and discussion with teaching staff to ensure consistent and coherent provision.

Evaluation of the curriculum's effectiveness will be conducted based on teacher evaluation, staff meetings to review and share experience and assessment of pupil learning objectives/outcomes through work sampling and the Governors' Audit through the Teaching and Learning Committee.

The trust's position is as follows:

• **Tobacco**

The trust operates a no smoking policy throughout all the schools the buildings and grounds. This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents, and visitors.

• **Alcohol**

The possession and use of alcohol on school premises during the workday is prohibited for all members of the school community. (This includes alcoholic soft drinks). Alcohol is not consumed at any function onsite by staff.

Alcohol should not be consumed at any function where pupils are present (unless parents are present).

• **Solvents**

The trust recognises that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed.

• **Medication: over the counter and prescribed drugs**

Where it is not possible for parents to administer medicines to their children themselves out of school hours, pupils should bring in a written request / signed request form from parents / carers and hand the medication into the school office. The school dispenses paracetamol only with parental consent.

All medicine is kept in secure first aid cupboards in classrooms including inhalers, piriton etc and a list of children requiring medicine is regularly updated to ensure medicines still required or in date.

Asthma reliever inhalers are kept classroom

classroom first aid boxes. A Spare inhaler is kept

in the school office.

Staff may also administer medicines on trips/ residential trips where a parent has signed a written request to do so. Any such instance should be recorded noting dosage and time according to written instructions from parent.

- **Epipens**

A list of those children who may require these upon the onset of an allergic reaction is kept in the staffroom and office area. Staff have been trained in the administering of the medication and have signed the appropriate documentation.

10. SCHOOL TRIPS

The school's policy on drugs applies to all school excursions, trips and residential.

11. RESPONDING TO DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The school seeks to work closely with families and support agencies in these circumstances. The school will consider each incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. It will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. The school seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, the other school members and the local community. Any incidents are recorded on CPOMs.

The range of responses includes:

1. Referral to outside agencies for counselling treatment
2. Case references to discuss the options carefully before devising action plans to enable pupils to remain in school and receive appropriate help.
3. Intensive in-school programmes (DfE guidance Social inclusion and the use of pastoral support programmes ELSA)

The management of drug related incidents is co-ordinated by the Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

12. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

Safeguarding

Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services.

If a pupil is deemed to be in danger because of drug misuse e.g., collapsed, unconscious, the following course of action should be taken:

- Provide emergency aid to pupil as appropriate with first aider
- Call an ambulance and briefly outline the cause of the emergency.
- Notify Headteacher /SLT.
- Notify the pupil's parents.
- Remove, in the presence of an adult witness, any suspicious substances/equipment and retain in case they are required by ambulance staff.
- Record the incident on CPOMS/medical log.

Intoxication

- Remove the pupil to a quiet room and ensure there is a member of staff present.
- The first aider will be called, and further medical help summoned if necessary.
- Parents will be informed and called to the school to collect the pupil and advised to visit their GP
- The incident will be recorded in the medical book/CPOMS.

Discovery / observation

- If the substance is, or is suspected of being, illegal, the Headteacher will call the local police to help with the identification of the substance and give appropriate police involvement.
- The governing body of the school will subsequently be informed.
- Parents will be informed and called to the school to discuss.

Drug / substance abusing parents

The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal and \ or illegal) is problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support have received guidance (and training) in this area. Any incidents to safeguard the child will be recorded on CPOMS and referred appropriately. (See also the Child Protection Policy).