



POLICY IN RESPECT OF DRUGS RELATED INCIDENTS

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Review Cycle:	Every 2 Years	Ratified by GB:	11/07/22

This policy is available in large print. Please contact the school office who will be happy to arrange this for you.

This document sets out the Governing Body's policy in relation to handling drug related incidents. This document is based very closely on advice contained in the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012) document.

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 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.

At Purbrook Junior School, we aim to ensure that all children have a secure understanding of the facts about drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, and the effects that they can have as well as laws surrounding them. In addition to this we also aim to equip them with the skills, strategies and attributes so they can manage situations involving these which may occur as they get older. To do this we use the PSHE Association's Teachers Guidance and Resources to ensure that all teachers are confident in how to deliver this within the classroom.

Introduction

*For the purpose of this policy the term **drug** is used to include: illegal substances and substances which are legal, but can be misused.*

This school condones neither the use of illegal substances, NPS (see below) alcohol or tobacco, nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines.

(New Psychoactive Substances (NPS))

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances are included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.)

This school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

This policy has been approved by the Governing Body. It is designed to ensure that the two principles stated above are put into practice. Currently the misuse of drugs and other substances has not been a problem at Purbrook Junior School. The Governing Body, however, seeks through the school's planned drug education programme to ensure that children are made aware of the dangers of drug and substance abuse. The Governing Body also wishes to ensure that procedures are in place to detect and deal with any incident, which may arise.

This policy is deemed to apply to all children on the roll of Purbrook Junior School, all staff employed by the school and anyone else using the premises e.g. parents, visitors and contractors working on site.

The policy relates to the school premises, which are defined as: all school buildings and the school grounds. It also relates to children and all accompanying adults when engaged in off-site activities, which have been organised by the school e.g. school visits and sports activities.

Whilst overall responsibility for the day to day management of the school rests with the Headteacher, he will be assisted in these matters by: the Deputy Headteacher in matters relating to drugs related incidents and by the Co-ordinator for PSHE in respect of the health education programme. In addition the Governing Body has agreed that the Safeguarding Governor will take a lead in keeping the Governing Body informed in all matters related to drug and substance abuse.

The Headteacher will be responsible for liaison with the media and other outside agencies.

Pastoral support

This school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils needing support to come forward. With children of Junior School age it is obviously appropriate for parents to be involved at a very early stage.

Any adults felt to be in need of pastoral support in relation to this issue would be encouraged to contact one of the outside support agencies, a list of which is available from the school.

All parties will be made aware of the national drugs helpline telephone number 0800 77 66 00 and other local sources of information and support.

Managing drug-related incidents

The Headteacher has ultimate responsibility for dealing with all drug related incidents. Staff or other responsible adults may in the first instance discuss concerns or suspicions with the Deputy Headteacher, who will assist the Headteacher in dealing with all drug related incidents. **In any such case the safety and well being of any child involved must be paramount and appropriate steps must be taken to ensure this.**

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

Parents will be informed should the school have any concerns related to the above. Brief written records of hearsay evidence will be kept and reviewed termly. They will be destroyed after three terms, if they are no longer appropriate

or relevant. Records of incidents in which it has been established that drugs or other substances have been abused will be retained but kept separately from the child's main school records.

Whilst the likelihood of a drug related incident taking place is remote, parents need to be aware that the school is committed to the two principles set out at the beginning of this policy document and will take all appropriate disciplinary measures to deal with any child involved in such incidents. These measures could include the use of fixed term or permanent exclusion.

Any employee of Hampshire County Council, who is thought to be involved in the abuse of drugs or related substances, will be subject to the disciplinary and support procedures set out in *The Manual of Personnel Practice*. Contractors will be asked to remove any employees found to be acting in a similar manner. Parents who may be involved will be encouraged to seek help from an outside support agency (see Pastoral Support advice). In all cases where it is known or suspected that illegal substances have been brought onto the school premises the police will be informed.

Pupils whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs

Purbrook Junior School will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. The school is pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and in safeguarding the children in its care. Screening is important in assessing needs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home a 'Concerns relating to Child Protection' form should be completed or an entry made on the CPOMS system.

Staff development

Training for staff will focus initially on the needs of: teachers, administrative staff, learning support assistants and lunchtime supervisory assistants. The governor, who will take a lead in keeping the Governing Body informed in all matters related to drug and substance abuse, will also require specific training. S/he will initially inform the Governing Body, although additional training may need to be arranged for the whole Governing Body in due course.

This training will include:

- the need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education
- awareness of the legal implications of individuals' professional responsibilities
- access to specialist training for key individuals e.g. Headteacher, Associate Governor
- addressing the needs of new staff.

Managing Medicines

Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. More detailed information can be found in the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Review of this policy

This policy will be subject to review two years after it is approved by the Governing Body, or sooner if circumstances require.