



NORTHSIDE

Primary School

Drugs and Alcohol Education Policy

Last review: Sept 22
Ratified: Oct 22
Review: Sept 24

Rationale

At Northside we are committed to keeping pupils safe from drugs and alcohol, both on our premises and in the wider community. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol. At Northside Primary School, we enable our children to make responsible healthy decisions. Relatively few children of primary school age are actively involved in experimenting with illegal and legal drugs, but our pupils are increasingly likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drug abuse gained through the media or from witnessing first hand, instances of use and trafficking amongst older children and adults. We recognise the harm that all drugs can have, be they illegal (cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy) or legal (alcohol, cigarettes and solvents) or medicines.

The school maintains the view that alcohol and drug use on school premises is entirely unacceptable with the exception of medicines that are prescribed or temporarily required. For the purposes of this policy, a "drug" is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- Keeping children safe in education 2022'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'

Key Principles

- To provide drugs, alcohol and tobacco education for our pupils which covers personal, health and social issues and supports pupil's diverse experiences.
- To provide a safe working and learning environment for both pupils and staff
- To make the children aware that some drugs are good and beneficial but some are harmful.
- To give children the opportunity to make decisions and choices in order to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This is reflected within the school's PSHE and science curriculum
- To promote the moral, social and personal responsibility behaviour of each child.
- To make them aware of pressure from friends.

- To make them aware of illegal and addictive substances and the effects of drug abuse, enabling the children to identify risks and have the skills and motivation to keep them safe.
- To provide an environment where a healthy lifestyle is promoted throughout the curriculum and ethos of the school.
- To provide a non-smoking environment both within the school building and grounds that protects the health of the whole school community and visitors to the school
- To help children understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies
- To set the example of a health promoting smoke-free environment to the whole school and wider community in line with government guidance and local priorities to reduce the prevalence of smoking and the associated risks
- To deal consistently with any drug-related incident, working in partnership with health and social services, the police and other agencies.
- To encourage an environment where a supportive response to incidents is not undermined by an unduly punitive response.
- To ensure this policy is fully implemented and disseminated to ensure understanding and adopting for all stakeholders.

Northside Values

RESPECT	to value our needs, beliefs and each other
PRIDE	to have confidence in our abilities and celebrate success
INCLUSION	to work together with families and our diverse community to become life-long learners
CHALLENGE	to have high expectations of ourselves so we achieve our best
CREATIVITY	to creatively express our feelings and ideas
RESILIENCE	to develop life skills so we fulfil our potential

In practice

A 'no smoking' statement is included in the staff code of conduct. As part of our Healthy School Gold status we promote a healthy lifestyle as well as part of PE, RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) and Science lessons.

Curriculum

We follow the Barnet Emotional Well-Being and PSHE Framework and cover health and wellbeing theme at the beginning of each academic year. In Science lessons, the pupils are taught that a drug is any substance that alters the way the mind or body works – physically, mentally or emotionally. A clear distinction is made between illegal and legal drugs and other substances, whose use or misuse may have harmful effects on the body.

Managing Drug Related Incidents Procedure

Our definition of drug includes medicines, alcohol and tobacco it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupils are paramount.

There are six situations that would constitute a drug-related incident outlined below.

- Emergencies – where a pupils, staff /contractors, volunteers and parents has lost consciousness or gone into a coma;
- Intoxication – being intoxicated 'high' when it is difficult to communicate with the person;

- Discovery/observation – where pupils, staff /contractors, volunteers and parents are discovered using, holding, supplying or offering to supply a substance not permitted on the school premises;
- Disclosure – where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that s/he has been using drugs, or that they are concerned about someone else's drug use (friend, parent or sibling);
- Suspicion or rumour – staff should be wary about acting on the basis of rumour or suspicion but should discuss any concerns with the Headteacher so that can be investigated and evidence sought;
- Discovery – this may be discovery of a restricted drug or paraphernalia that is used in conjunction with its use.

Smoking

The following statements apply to all staff, pupils and visitors to the school e.g. parents, visiting suppliers, temporary staff, contractors and governors.

1. Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school site at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school including playgrounds & car parks. Failure to comply will be dealt with through the disciplinary procedures.
2. Smoking by anyone on a school visit or trip is not permitted.
3. Smoking at the entrances and exits to the school site are strongly discouraged.

E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporizers)

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation, we do not allow the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises and strongly discourage parents using them when collecting their children from school.

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air and to avoid the dangers of second hand smoke. Pupils need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models if they are to recognise no smoking as the norm.

Legal drugs and prescribed medicines

The school recognises that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and the school will request all relevant information about pupils' medical conditions from parents. Medicines will only be permitted to be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist, with the exception of over-the-counter painkillers, e.g. paracetamol, which may be taken in accordance with package instructions.

The school will only accept medicines which are provided in the original container as dispensed and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

Solvents

Pupils will not be permitted to bring solvent-based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosol deodorants, compressed air and aerosol hairspray.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them. More information can be found in the school's COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Policy.

Resources

There are resources available to teach Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education in the RSHE resource box. These include games, books, group work activities and worksheets.

Monitoring and Review

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in the school safe until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. S/he will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. The Local Authority School Drug Adviser and Drug & Alcohol Action Team are also able to provide guidance and advice.

