

Reviewed: September 2022
Next Review: September 2025



SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

Aims

- to increase knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects by providing accurate information
- to improve self-knowledge, particularly in terms of risk taking
- to promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs
- to develop social skills such as making informed choices and resisting unhelpful pressures from peers and from advertising
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support

School Organisation and Practice of Assessment

Curriculum Coverage:

KS1:

- Keeping Safe: Things that go into or onto our bodies
- Keeping Healthy: Medicines
- Keeping Safe: Medicines and household products

LKS2:

- Safety Rules and Risks: Medicines and household products
- Safety Rules and Risks: Alcohol and smoking

UKS2:

- Managing Risks: Medicines
- Managing Risk: Legal and illegal drugs
- Managing Risk: Influences and pressure
- Managing Risk: Drugs and alcohol in the media

DEFINITIONS

The policy covers any substance taken to change the way they feel, think or behave:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs, including tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances
- All medicines

THE SCHOOL'S STANCE

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable.

Bewdley Primary School is a Smoke-Free School.

Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for use during the school day. In these cases, the school's policy on the managing and the administration of medicines will be followed (for further guidance: "Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings")

When managing drugs and drug-related incidents, the first concern will be for the health and safety of all involved, followed by the pastoral concerns of pupils.

Responsibility for coordinating drug issues lies with the headteacher, who will involve all relevant people as appropriate.

MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS AT SCHOOL

The first priority will always be for the safety of all, meeting medical emergencies and securing appropriate help.

The school will employ a range of responses, so that the needs of the individual are balanced against those of the wider community. The precise response will be determined after a full and careful investigation into the exact nature of the incident. Pupils will be aware of the range of possible responses and the effect those responses may have on them.

Support for pupils as appropriate will be a priority, including referrals to agencies such as SPACE, Worcestershire's multi-agency substance misuse service for young people. The telephone number for SPACE is 0800 169 60 64. In such cases careful attention will be given to issues of confidentiality, in line with the school's confidentiality policy.

The school nurse will be able to give advice regarding all health-related matters.

The school will normally involve the pupil's parents/carers, unless this would jeopardise the pupil's safety.

Drug Education

A full record will be made of every incident.

DISCOVERY OF SUSPECTED SUBSTANCES ON SCHOOL PREMISES

Staff discovering substances which are suspected of being harmful, illegal or requiring further investigation should observe the following guidance:

- Consider the possible need for first aid and follow the school's first aid procedures.
- If possible, remove the suspected substance from the location in the presence of a witness. If there is no witness, do not delay, remove the substance and take it to the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised to deputise.
- If a pupil is, or is thought to be, in possession of a suspect substance, Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so. Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug
- Following a search, whether or not anything is found, the school is advised to make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. There is no legal requirement to do this.
- Do not retain the substance on your person. Follow the steps in the 'controlled drugs' section of the policy.
- Where drug-related paraphernalia, such as needles and syringes, is discovered, do not attempt to handle this. It should be collected by the appropriate personnel in accordance with health and safety guidelines. The Headteacher must ensure that materials are placed in a secure container to await proper collection.
- No entry of an incident should be made on the pupil's record until the suspected substance is confirmed by the police as being a controlled substance. If the substance is not a controlled substance, then the entry on the pupil's record will be determined by the Headteacher.
- There is no legal obligation to inform the police, although they should be able to give relevant support and advice including a shared approach to dealing with the situation. Once the nature of the substance is confirmed it is legally acceptable to dispose of the substance, typically by flushing down the lavatory. This should be witnessed and recorded.
- Where a substance is confirmed as being controlled, it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to notify the parents concerned, and, if necessary, to consider further action, including notifying the Chair of Governors.

Drug Education

- In circumstances where it is possible that the school premises are being used for illegal drug use, all reasonable steps must be taken to prevent this, in order to avoid contravening the law.

CONTROLLED DRUGS

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols.

The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;

- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

CONFIDENTIALITY

In managing drugs, and in drug education lessons, teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will normally be honoured; exceptions to this will be

- where child protection policy takes precedence
- in order to cooperate with a police investigation
- where there has been agreement to refer to an external agency

Every effort will be made to seek the agreement of the pupil before further sharing of sensitive information. Where information is to be shared, this will be strictly on a need-to-know basis.