Ladygrove Primary School



Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

September 2025

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Policy- Document Status			
Date of Policy Creation	**September 2023**	**Named Responsibility**	Kirsty Stewart
Date of review completion	**September 2025**	**Named Responsibility**	Pupils, Staff, Parents and Governors
Inception of new Policy	**September 2025**	**Named Responsibility**	Kirsty Stewart
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This policy is drawn up in accordance with the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools.

Rationale

Ladygrove Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

Context

This policy applies to all staff, governors, pupils, contractors and visitors to the school site.

This policy links with the following other policies:- PSHE, Physical Education, Health and Safety, Child Protection, Safeguarding, Behaviour and Supporting Pupils in Schools with Medical Conditions.

The term 'drug' is used to include:

- illegal substances
- substances which are legal, but which can be misused*
- all over the counter prescription medicines

*Some of these substances would not be acceptable for possession and use by pupils on school premises, e.g. alcohol and tobacco, psychoactive substances. Other substances, for example, glue, solvents and over-the-counter medicines, would be acceptable for possession and use on school premises, provided this is for their proper, intended purpose.

Purpose of the Policy

This document acknowledges our school's role in drug education and helps to ensure a whole school programme appropriate to our pupils' needs. Our school provision incorporates knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills that help pupils to lead healthy lives.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

Safeguarding

Links from Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025:

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives Home Office Strategy

http://www.talktofrank.com/ Talk to Frank website

https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/curriculum-and-resources/resources/drug-and-alcohol-education-%E2%80%94-teacher-guidance PSHE Association

Drug Education Aims and objectives

- To provide all children with accurate information appropriate to the child's age and/ or needs.
- To present facts in an objective, balanced and sensitive manner suitable to the age and maturity of the children.
- To provide children with opportunities to:

1. Become accurately informed on the effects, good or bad, of drugs on health.
2. Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
3. Practise decision-making skills.
4. Make healthy informed choices.
5. Become aware of peer pressure.
6. Develop assertive skills.
7. Consider the consequences of risk taking.
8. Learn how to access sources of help and information.
9. Recognise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
10. Evaluate media messages on drug use.

Drug Education programme

Early Years Foundation Stage:

- Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices.

Key Stage One and Two

Drugs education is taught through PSHE lessons using the 'Jigsaw' scheme of work.

Puzzle overview Healthy Me	EYFS	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
	In this Puzzle, children learn about their bodies: the names of some key parts as well as how to stay healthy. They talk about food and that some foods are healthier than others. They discuss the importance of sleep and what they can do to help themselves get to sleep. They talk about hand washing and why it is important. The class also discuss 'stranger danger' and what they should do if approached by someone they don't know.	In this Puzzle, the children learn about healthy and less healthy choices and how these choices make them feel. They explore about hygiene, keeping themselves clean and that germs can make you unwell. The children learn about road safety, and about people who can help them to stay safe.	In this Puzzle, the children learn about healthy food; they talk about having a healthy relationship with food and making healthy choices. The children consider what makes them feel relaxed and stressed. They learn about medicines, how they work and how to use them safely. The children make healthy snacks and discuss why they are good for their bodies.	In this Puzzle, the children learn about the importance of exercise and how it helps your body to stay healthy. They also learn about their heart and lungs, what they do and how they are very important. The children discover facts about calories, fat and sugar; they discuss what each of these are and how the amount they consume can affect their health. The children learn about different types of drugs, the ones you take to make you better, as well as other drugs. The children consider things, places and people that are dangerous and link this to strategies for keeping themselves safe.	In this Puzzle, the children look at the friendship groups that they are part of, how they are formed, how they have leaders and followers and what role they play. The children reflect on their friendships, how different people make them feel and which friends they value the most. The children also learn about smoking and its effects on health; they do the same with alcohol and then look at the reasons why people might drink or smoke. Finally, they learn about peer pressure and how to deal with it successfully.	In this Puzzle, the children investigate the risks associated with smoking and how it affects the lungs, liver and heart. Likewise, they learn about the risks associated with alcohol misuse. They are taught a range of basic first aid and emergency procedures (including the recovery position) and learn how to contact the emergency services when needed. The children investigate how body types are portrayed in the media, social media and celebrity culture. They also learn about eating disorders and people's relationships with food and how this can be linked to negative body image pressures.	In this Puzzle, the children discuss taking responsibility for their own physical and emotional health and the choices linked to this. They learn about different types of drugs and the effects these can have on people's bodies. The children learn about exploitation as well as gang culture and the associated risks therin. They also learn about mental health/illness and that people have different attitudes towards this. They learn to recognise the triggers for and feelings of being stressed and that there are strategies they can use when they are feeling stressed.

Outside Agencies – Visitors may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy.

- We use Loudmouth theatre productions in upper KS2 and Y6 attend an annual Crucial Crew event, which are designed to teach children about peer pressure, online safety and appropriate choices.
- Our upper KS2 children attend workshops ran by the St Giles Trust on gangs and knife crime.

Management of drugs in school

- Any use of illegal or unauthorised drugs, including tobacco and e-cigarettes, are not acceptable at any time within the boundary of the school and other situations where staff are supervising pupils e.g. off-site activities, visits and school trips.

- Prescribed medicines for pupils who need to take them are kept in our locked first aid medicine cupboard. Prescribed drugs will be administered to children by appropriate staff at prescribed times. Inhalers and epi-pens for children are kept in the children's classrooms in a named box with a photograph attached.

- Ladygrove Primary School has a no-smoking policy and has a responsibility to promote a healthy lifestyle. Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation, their use is also not allowed on school premises by staff, parent/carers, contractors or visitors.

- Alcohol will not normally be kept or consumed on school premises except for social occasions e.g. PTA events. Permission to keep alcohol on school premises should be sought from the Headteacher in advance.

- No illegal drugs, including psychoactive substances, are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

- If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk from drugs misuse, then he/she should speak to a the Headteacher and/or designated safeguarding lead. If a pupil voluntarily discloses information about drug misuse, it is important to:

1. Not over-react
2. Listen to the pupil's point of view
3. Not guarantee confidentiality
4. Talk to designated members of staff
5. Record incident on CPOMS

Drug Related Incidents

Guiding Principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents/carers are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

A drug related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries. These can involve a parent/carer collecting their child while under the influence of alcohol, a pupil misusing another pupil's inhaler; disclosing concern about a family member who is abusing drugs or a pupil giving medicines to another pupil at the school. A drug related incident may also include any of the following:

- Finding used syringes in the school grounds or around the school boundary
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours or reports of drug possession or drug use

In all drug-related incidents, the following will apply:

- The Headteacher and/or other designated safeguarding leads will be informed immediately and recorded on CPOMS
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking into account the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation, unless linked to an abuse case
- Support agencies, including the police, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's Behaviour Policy
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors

Possible responses might be:

- Support and counselling
- Where a school rule relating to drug use is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the Behaviour Policy.

Procedures

It is very rare for primary aged children to misuse drugs in school; however, we believe it is important to be prepared should an incident occur.

All drug related incidents will be reported to the Headteacher. The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses.

Suspicious Behaviour

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should be immediately reported to the Headteacher and logged on CPOMS so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon when necessary.

Alcohol Abuse

If a parent or carer arrives on the school premises inebriated, the Headteacher, or their representative, will be contacted immediately to deal with the situation. The child will be the school's paramount consideration. Suitable measures will be taken to ensure the safety of all staff, parents and children. The police will be contacted if it is deemed appropriate. The incident should be logged on CPOMS.

Finding substances

Gloves should always be used for protection. If an adult or child discovers suspicious paraphernalia, the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher should be informed immediately. The items should be removed without delay to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal, the police, (preferably the school liaison officer), could be informed if the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher feels it is necessary. The following details below should also be recorded:

- date and time of the find
- size and appearance of the substance
- names of those concerned
- action taken

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered, the items should be handled with care and the incident should be recorded. Items such as needles and syringes should be placed in a secure and rigid container and the appropriate person contacted for removal. If a pupil finds these items, their parents should be contacted.

Searching, Screening and confiscation

Senior staff may take the decision to search pupils' or their belongings. This is done using the guidance in the Behaviour for Learning policy, around search and confiscation. Any such incident should be recorded on CPOMS. Designated Safeguarding leads will also be informed, in which case they will follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy.

Finding Drug Misuse

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and the Headteacher or their representative will decide what further steps need to be taken. The incident should be recorded on CPOMS.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount. In all instances:

- separate the child from the group;
- decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare;
- inform the child's parents.

Supplying illegal substances

It is an offence to produce or supply a controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Returning articles which have been confiscated

If confiscated articles are legal and not required by the police, they must be returned to parents. Parents will be informed in writing within 24 hours of the confiscation and an explanation will be given as to why it is inappropriate to return the articles to the child. It will be made clear that the time limit of collection is one week. After this time, the school will dispose of the article.

Medical Emergencies

If an individual has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm (is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated) medical help will be sought, and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety. Parents will be notified immediately.

Disclosure

When a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and show concern for the pupil.

Pupils know that staff cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or a DSL should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found. The incident should be recorded on CPOMS.

Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone; however, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made. Our school rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If we are concerned that a pupil is at risk then we will follow the school's Child Protection procedures.

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils who live within families where there is evidence of drug abuse. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a pupil discloses, we will assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and, if needed, involve external support for the pupil, and where appropriate, for the family.