

Oakley Infant School
Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy
Strive, thrive and achieve together

Introduction

Policy Statement

Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on local authorities and their partners to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Both the prevention of problems and the protection of children and young people are central to safeguarding.

All staff at Oakley Infant School work to prevent the children in the school suffering harm and to promote their welfare, provide them with the services they require to address their identified needs and safeguard those who are being or who are likely to be harmed.

We work with children and their parents, to help create the conditions in which they can thrive. In order to achieve this, we work to promote substance awareness and education (as part of wider health and well-being), to help young people to develop healthy, safe and stable lifestyles which enable them to engage successfully in learning and work, and to realise their potential.

While the incidence of drug and substance misuse is less likely in infant age children it is not impossible for young children to come into contact with drugs and drug based paraphernalia from home or found in the locality. We must consider both **deliberate** and **accidental** possession and use of drugs and other substances.

The administration and storage of medicines in school for illnesses and medical conditions (including off site visits) is described in the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Aims and objectives

- clarify the school's approach to drugs and substance misuse, for staff, pupils, governors and parents,
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities around drugs and substance misuse;
- outline the school's drugs education programme;
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Definitions and Terminology

The term **drug** refers to a chemical substances designed to have an effect on the body when ingested, absorbed, inhaled or injected including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, psychoactive or unauthorised substances.

Substance misuse (or substance abuse) 'refers to the harmful or hazardous use of psychoactive substances, including alcohol and illicit drugs' (World Health Organisation 2016).

Responsibility

The Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher who will:

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme.

The Headteacher is also responsible for dealing with any drug or substance misuse issues causing concern in school this includes:

- any child on the school premises during school hours or on any off school trip or activity arranged by the school on or off school premises;

- any drug-related issues which may have an impact on the child or family by direct or indirect means even when the incident occurs during school holidays or outside normal school hours;
- liaising with appropriate agencies where necessary.

Drugs education – Aims

We aim to make children aware that:

- drugs have a place in the treatment of illnesses and other medical conditions, but they are only to be administered under the direction of a responsible adult;
- prescribed drugs are for specific individuals and should never be given to anyone other than the individual named on the prescription;
- children should never eat, drink or touch things that they are offered or find if they are unsure about them without checking with an adult first.

How we deliver drugs education

A programme of drugs education is an important part of our health education provision. The programme teaches children to value their bodies, understand the use of medicines and know that all household products can be harmful if not used properly.

Teachers will answer children's questions in simple language to the best of their knowledge and ability.

Where teachers feel unable to do so, they will liaise with the Headteacher who will contact the appropriate agencies for information and advice.

The parent's role in educating children about drugs is important and the school will work with parents by sharing this policy and informing them about the curriculum and teaching about drug education. The school will answer parent's questions about drugs education and take seriously any issues that they might have about the policy or drugs education in the school.

Substance misuse

The use of illegal and unauthorised substances is not acceptable and where there are concerns regarding substance misuse, the health and safety of the school community and pastoral needs of the children are the first concern.

Drug paraphernalia and suspected illegal or unauthorised drug use

If drug paraphernalia or illegal drugs are found on school grounds or in a child's belongings or if a member of staff suspects or witnesses drugs related activities, the following procedure should be followed :-

1. Member of staff to relay suspicions or report incident to Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence.
2. Designated Safeguarding Lead will interview child/children involved
3. Drug paraphernalia found should not be left unattended and should not be handled without personal, protective equipment such as gloves. It is helpful if a photograph of the scene/items is taken prior to any removal/handling of any items – a colleague's help should be summoned if possible in all cases. For sharp items such as needles, a grabber should be used where possible and items should be disposed of in a sharps disposal bin or placed in a sealable plastic container until they can be properly disposed of.
4. Searches of school site or children's property in school will be undertaken if a concern regarding drug paraphernalia or authorised drugs is raised.
5. Incidents must be recorded on CPOMs. Parents informed by Headteacher, if appropriate.
6. The Police will be informed by the Headteacher when it is believed or suspected that:
 - an illegal activity has taken place,

- drug paraphernalia has been brought into school by a child or found on school grounds,
- a parent or carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, (999 will be used if there is aggression and or violence).

7. If required counselling or other appropriate treatment will be sought and implemented

Pupil support, staff support and working with external agencies

Pupils, families or staff affected by any incidents would be supported on a case by case basis with help from local agencies and the school's Parent Support Advisor.

A list of local and national support agencies are provided at the end of this policy.

Staff conduct and drugs

- **Medication and authorised substances**

- Staff are encouraged to discuss with the Headteacher in confidence, health conditions that may affect their work along with associated medication in case reasonable work adjustments or drug storage arrangements are needed.
- Staff with severe allergic reactions to substances must have a specific risk assessment completed and agree their medication storage and colleague awareness of their condition.
- If staff are required to take prescribed medication that may cause side effects that affect their performance or level of awareness, this must be discussed with the Headteacher and appropriate arrangements made.

- **Alcohol and illegal substances**

Staff have a responsibility for the safety of the children, their work colleagues and themselves. As such, it is not acceptable to be under the influence of alcohol, recreational drugs or illegal substances during school hours or on school trips – such action would be regarded as misconduct and be subject to disciplinary action.

Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol, we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983.

No smoking statement

Oakley Infant School and the surrounding site is a no smoking environment. There is no smoking on any Hampshire County Council sites. Staff and visitors are required not to smoke in the school building or grounds. The no smoking directive extends to school trips and anyone accompanying children on extracurricular activities and includes e-cigarettes and vaporisers.

Role of Governors

Governors are involved in the development and review of the effectiveness of this policy. Drug issues that arise will be discussed with the Health & Safety Governor and the full governing body notified if relevant.

Local and national support agencies

- Inclusion Recovery (Hampshire) Tel: 0300 124 0103
Inclusion Recovery supports anyone over 18 who is using or is affected by problems associated with drugs and/or alcohol.
- DrinkAware
National independent charity offering information and advice.
- Catch 22 Tel: 0845 459 9405

A community engagement treatment service offering substance misuse treatment to young people under 18-years-old and targeted substance misuse interventions and support for young people aged 11 to 16-years-old within educational settings.

- National Association for Children of Alcoholics (NACOA) Helpline: 0800 358 3456
Provides information, advice and support to people of any age affected by a parent's drinking
- Talk to Frank Helpline: 0300 123 6600
Information advice and support (including live web chats) aimed at young people.

Linked Policies:

- Child Protection Policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions
- PSHE Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

Approved by Buildings and Premises Committee
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