



ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND DRUG EDUCATION POLICY
MARCH 2023

Headteacher: Rich Healey

Due for review: Spring Term 2025

We recognise that the school has a responsibility, in conjunction with parents and other professionals, to equip students to take their place in a rapidly changing and challenging world.

This policy exists as a separate policy and has close links with other school policies, including Safeguarding, Drugs Incidents, Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE), Behaviour and Health and Safety.

For the purpose of this policy the term 'drug' means all substances capable of misuse including alcohol, tobacco, medicines, vapes and volatile substances as well as illegal drugs.

We are committed to providing sound, planned Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education and consistent, clear procedures which promote safety and good management of all drugs.

Aims of this Policy

The aims of this policy are:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills;
- to ensure we provide alcohol, drugs and tobacco education as an essential prerequisite to enable young people to be healthy and avoid harm as they enter adulthood;
- to provide accurate information about drugs;
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use;
- to seek to minimize the risks that users and potential users face;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;
- to promote and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school;
- to be an operational document, owned and used by those to whom it applies.

Key Personnel

It is the responsibility of the PSHE coordinator:

- to ensure that school's policy on drug education is regularly updated with new information or knowledge that address extra-familial harm concerns;
- to support teachers delivering drugs education in school with materials and training as necessary;
- to update senior managers about any necessary amendments to policies;
- to ensure that drugs education is embedded in PSHE schemes of work according to school policy, and that teaching is monitored;
- to ensure that relationships in the school are such that all young people have someone to whom they feel they can turn, whether for themselves, or for their friends;
- To ensure drugs education is up to date with current trends of misuse and wider social implications, including the resequencing and re-planning of knowledge to address this.

It is the responsibility of all teachers to ensure that where drugs education forms part of their PSHE scheme of work it is taught according to school policy.

Aims of Drugs Education

- To help students develop, extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly and assertively in a society in which they are likely to be exposed to many potentially harmful substances;
- To provide access to reliable, up to date, objective and balanced information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco as students need it;
- To give opportunities for students to explore a range of attitudes to drug/drug users, including their own & each other's;
- To emphasise the school's focus upon personal safety, personal health & individual responsibility;
- To explore issues relevant to students which are raised by the use of substances in society;
- To contribute actively to raising & maintaining high self-esteem in all students;
- To foster competence & confidence in students' critical thinking & decision-making skills;
- To identify sources of further information & reliable support;
- To educate staff on current developments within national and regional trends, such as 'County Lines'.

How is Drugs Education delivered in the school?

Drugs education is principally delivered through the main curriculum areas:

- PSHE from Year 5 – 11. In addition to our own teaching staff, we may draw upon the expertise of other organisations to help in the delivery of drugs education;
- Science Years 7-9 and Years 10-11;
- GCSE Religious Education and GCSE Physical Education;

On occasion external speakers may attend assemblies to speak on related issues.

Confidentiality

Staff have a clear responsibility to take all necessary and reasonable steps to safeguard the welfare of the young person. It is, therefore, our policy that should information be disclosed during drugs education sessions that leads an adult to believe a student is at risk this information must be passed on to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.