

# **Pendragon Primary School**

## **Drug education Policy**



**Lead person: Headteacher and PSHCE SL and PSHCE LA Service**

**Agreed Governors : Jan 2022**

**Review: Autumn 2024**

# **Octagon Schools Drug Policy**

## **Pendragon Primary School**

Visitors and community agencies supporting

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# Section 1

## The Context of our Drug Policy

### Our shared view of drug education

The Octagon Schools believe that drug education will help our children and young people develop their knowledge and understanding about drugs, their skills in taking decisions, and develop a positive attitude towards their own health.

Across the Octagon Schools' Locality we believe that good drug education is supported by a consistent, whole school approach and is promoted by the provision of excellent PSHE. It is part of the entitlement for all our children, whatever their age, level of development or social, cultural or religious background. It is planned for and taught in the context of our comprehensive PSHE programme.

We recognise that families and other services have an important role to play in supporting children and young people's drug education.

We see drug education as an important component in the wider area of risk education. We recognise that giving information about drugs alone will have a minimal impact on children and young people's abilities to keep themselves safe with drugs. We will therefore enable children and young people to:

- address issues of peer and media influence;
- explore different responses to risk and challenge;
- develop assertiveness skills;
- develop a sense of responsibility and accountability to themselves and others;
- improve communication with peers and adults;
- reflect on the factors that influence their decisions.

Drug education is part of the wider agenda of promoting positive relationships and healthy lifestyles for children, to which many individuals and organisations in our community contribute. Our work in drug education, across the Octagon Schools' Locality, contributes to meeting local and national priorities as described in strategies

such as: Safeguarding and Child Protection and National Drug Strategies.

As the Octagon Schools' Group, we recognise our collective responsibility for children with in our locality and believe that working together will enable us to achieve better outcomes for our children and young people. In whatever capacity we work with them, we recognise our shared responsibilities regarding their health and wellbeing. We also recognise that this policy has a bearing on children and young people's whole lives, not just their time in school. Therefore it describes our strategies for keeping children and young people safe in relation to drugs, both within and outside of the learning day.

### Entitlements for all Members of our Community

We are committed, within the Octagon Schools' Locality, to working towards the implementation and development of these entitlements.

**Everyone** is entitled to have access to information which is accurate and up-to-date; appropriate to their needs and sensitive to cultural, ethnic, religious and gender differences.

**Children and young people** are entitled:

- to consistent provision across the locality;
- to a planned, varied and cohesive drug education programme which enables them to increase their knowledge and explore and practise relevant skills and attitudes, and which gives them time to reflect;
- to have access to support when they need it, in an appropriate setting;
- when seeking advice, to have confidentiality guidelines explained, and to be treated honestly and with respect and sensitivity;
- to have the opportunity to participate in the shaping and evaluation of their drug education programme using methods appropriate to their maturity, for example, through classroom activities or research.

**Adults working with our children and young people** are entitled:

- to relevant and appropriate training;
- to opportunities to develop personal skills and confidence in delivering drug education and managing drug-related situations and incidents;
- to a clear definition of issues concerning boundaries and confidentiality in school;
- to an environment which provides opportunities to express their and share concerns openly;
- to have access to independent advice and support, in both personal and professional capacities;
- through representatives, to be involved in the formulation and/or evaluation of drug policy.

**Parents, carers and other adults in our community** are entitled:

- to expect a safe and secure environment for their child;
- through representatives, to be involved in the formulation and/or evaluation of our drug policy;
- to express their opinions and to be offered time and privacy to share any concerns;
- to be *offered* information about other services or support available to parent/carers locally.

## Our school ethos

As schools, we have a duty to promote children's wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (Education and Inspection Act 2006). In fulfilling this duty, we enable children to learn a range of life skills through our PSHE curriculum. However, this is only part of the way we endeavour to protect children from later harm associated with drug use. In our school, we aim to ensure all children feel engaged with school, that they trust the adults who care for them, that they feel some control over what happens in school and that they feel supported. Positive engagement with school is a major protective factor against later drug misuse. We hope to set this positive engagement firmly in place.

## Role of governors

The governors will take an overview of this policy and the effectiveness of the programme of drug education. -

## Review

Monitoring and evaluation of individual school's policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and PSHCE Co-ordinator. Information will be gathered from the PSHCE Co-ordinator, staff, parent/carers and where appropriate children to inform judgements about effectiveness. Records of drug-related incidents will be reviewed to assist with the development of robust procedures.

The Octagon Schools' community Drug Policy will be reviewed every three years. The next review will be carried out in Jan 2018.

## Definition of 'drug'

Throughout this policy we use the following definition:

'A drug is any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves' (World Health Organisation). The term includes medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore, 'drug' refers to alcohol, nicotine, volatile substances (solvents, aerosols etc.), medicines, illegal drugs and new psychoactive substances (legal highs).

## **Section 2**

# **Policy for Drug Education in PENDRAGON Primary School**

## **Introduction**

Our work in drug education is set in the wider context of our school values and ethos:

- *RESPECT*
- *EFFORT*
- *ACHIEVE*
- *CHALLENGE*

Other school policies are relevant to our provision of drug education: PSHcE and Citizenship, Safeguarding and Child Protection, Medicines, Science, Equality, Confidentiality, Behaviour, Inclusion, Staff Health and Wellbeing.

This drug policy will be made available to staff on the school network.

This policy is consistent with current national legislation (Education and Inspection Act 2006 and Learning and Skills Act 2000). It is also consistent with current national guidance (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012). Our policy also reflects recommendations from OfSTED (PSHE in Schools 2012) and the Drug Education Forum (Principles of Good Drug Education 2011)

We are engaged in the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Programme and promote ourselves as a healthy school, both of which support this policy and the delivery of effective Drug Education.

Our drug education policy has been developed through discussion of representatives from the Octagon Schools leadership teams, the PSHE Co-ordinator and reviewed by staff..

## **Our aims for drug education**

All adults will work towards achieving these aims for drug education in our school. We seek to enable our children to:

- Value and care for their own bodies
- Understand that drugs are any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves
- Distinguish between different drugs and consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm
- Consider attitudes to drugs and people who use them
- Understand how to keep safe around drugs and household substances
- Recognise risky situations associated with drugs and substances and know appropriate ways to respond
- Develop their decision-making skills in risky situations
- Learn how to be assertive in social situations
- Develop positive values and a moral framework that will guide their decisions and behaviour

## **Delivering the Drug Education Curriculum in Our School**

We understand the importance of ensuring that all children in school gain similar information and experiences through drug education. We will therefore follow the progressive, spiral curriculum for drug education illustrated in this document. (Appendix 1)

The objectives of the curriculum for drug education will mainly be delivered in designated PSHE lessons and may at times be reinforced through circle time discussions.

Some aspects of drug education will be delivered in other subjects, such as Science.

Some objectives of drug education will also be met in enrichment activities. Some of these may include: visits from the Life Education Centre, our work as a Healthy School, social skills groups, curriculum enrichment days, residential trips provision.

## Responsibilities for Curriculum Delivery

We regard it as the shared responsibility of all adults working within the school to model responsible drug-related attitudes and behaviour and to respond appropriately to a pupil's request for information or guidance.

Teaching and support staff will have the same responsibility for contribution to the delivery of the taught drug education curriculum as they have for other components of the curriculum.

The PSHcE Co-ordinator is responsible for reviewing and evaluating drug education at our school. The PSHcE Co-ordinator will report to the Head Teacher.

Staff will be assisted in their planning and delivery of the curriculum by the PSHcE Co-ordinator who will, with support, develop long and medium term planning, provide ideas for lesson plans and activities for colleagues, access support from out of school where necessary and plan INSET to meet staff needs if required.

Governors have the responsibility to update their own knowledge and awareness, so that they can contribute to monitoring and evaluation of policy and practice. The PSHcE Co-ordinator and Head teacher will support with this.

## Teaching Methodologies

**Ground Rules:** Drug education is taught in a safe, non-judgemental environment where adults and children are confident that they will be respected. Teachers and children together will ensure there are ground rules in place which ensure that every child feels safe and is able to learn in a supportive and caring environment. These will cover, in particular, the asking and answering of personal questions and strategies for checking or accessing information.

**Answering Questions:** We acknowledge that sensitive and complex issues will arise in drug education, as children will naturally share information and ask questions. When spontaneous discussion arises, it will be guided in a way which reflects the stated school aims and curriculum content for drug education. As a first principle, we will answer questions relating to the taught, planned curriculum for that age group (or younger) to the whole class. We will answer questions relating to areas beyond the taught, planned curriculum for that age group, in a sensitive and age appropriate way, only to the

child or children who have asked the question. If a member of staff is uncertain about the answer to a question, or indeed whether they wish to answer it, they will seek guidance from the PSHE leader. Questions may be referred to parents/carers. We may use a 'Question box', where questions may be asked anonymously.

When answering questions, we shall ensure that sharing personal information by adults, pupils or their families is discouraged. Where a question or comment from a pupil indicates the possibility of abuse, teachers will pass this information to the designated person for child protection, in line with school policy.

Staff may also refer to external sources of information such as [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com) to check information about drugs.

**Distancing Techniques:** In order to protect children's privacy, we will employ teaching and learning strategies which enable them to discuss issues without disclosing personal experience. For example, we will use fiction, puppets, case studies, role-play, videos/DVD to enable young people to share ideas and opinions and to practise their decision-making skills in a safe learning environment.

## Inclusion

We understand the importance of ensuring that all children in our school receive their entitlement to drug education. We will carefully consider gender, culture, learning needs and background when planning and delivering it.

In relation to ethnicity, religion and cultural diversity, we value the different backgrounds of our children and, in acknowledging and exploring different views and beliefs, seek to promote respect and understanding.

In order to ensure the drug education curriculum meets the needs of all:

- We will encourage respect and discourage abuse and exploitation.
- We will not ask young people to represent the views of a particular religious or cultural group to their peers, unless they choose to do so.

In relation to those with special educational needs, we will review our drug education programme to ensure that provision is made for those with additional needs. When working with children with additional needs we will consider:

- Their level of vulnerability
- Their use of medication



- Their need to develop self-esteem and positive body image
- The need to involve all staff and carers in policy development, planning and training
- Sources of support for pupils.

## Drug Misuse in Our Community

Many pupils will have parents, carers or family members who use, misuse or abuse drugs, including medicine, alcohol and nicotine. Some children will experience problematic alcohol use or illegal drug misuse by family members. We will take care to ensure that our drug education programme takes into account possible misuse of drugs by family members. We will work to ensure that the content of our programme does not stigmatise children or heighten their anxieties about their family members' welfare. It will be a high priority to determine and address the additional needs of children who experience the effects of drug misuse and abuse in their homes.

## Resources

We will refer to national guidance when planning our drug education activities. For example, *OfSTED guidance*, *Drug Education Forum*, *PSHE Association Curriculum Guidance*

All staff will primarily use the Cambridgeshire PSHE programme- see appendix when planning and delivering drug education. Resources to support our drug education programme can be found in the staff room resources cupboard and on the school network. We will carefully assess the suitability of resources.

## Visitors and Community Agencies Supporting Drug Education in our School

We may also make use of the expertise of visitors from the community and experts from outside agencies eg. the school nurse, but this will be seen as an enrichment of our programme and not a substitute for our core provision which is based upon the strong relationships between teachers and pupils. Such visitors will be made aware, in advance, of our policy and will be expected to work within it. They will work in collaboration with appropriate staff to ensure continuity and that the needs of the children are met.

## Staff Training

We understand that, in order to feel confident in teaching drug education, staff need opportunities to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes and to share good practice. We recognise that all adults have different personal beliefs about and attitudes to drugs and drug education. We will discuss relevant issues and, where appropriate, arrange training to enable staff members to feel confident in delivering the drug education curriculum. Those with special responsibility for the development of drug education will be supported in developing the necessary knowledge and skills, where appropriate.

## Children's Participation

As well as recognising that an interactive approach to drug education will better develop the skills of our children, we will involve young people in the evaluation and development of their drug education in ways appropriate to their age.

- We will refer to local/countywide/national data e.g. Health-related Behaviour Survey for our school/district.
- We will engage the children in assessment activities to establish their development needs.
- We will encourage children to ask questions as they arise by providing anonymous question boxes.
- We will ask children to reflect on their learning using appropriate success criteria and set goals for future learning.

## Working with Parents/Carers and our School Community

Parents and carers are the key figures in supporting their children through the emotional and physical aspects of growing up. Therefore we seek to work in partnership with parents and carers when planning and delivering drug education. We will encourage this partnership by:

- Informing parents and carers by letter of forthcoming drug education topics
- Inviting parents to learn more about resources and activities used in drug education



- Providing supportive information about parents' role in drug education and how they can develop protective factors with their children

Parents and carers will be given access to this policy on request. It will be available at the Annual Governors' Meeting. It will also be available on the school website.

## **Monitoring and Evaluating Drug Education**

We are committed to the development of Drug Education in our school. We will use the following indicators to monitor and evaluate our progress:

- a co-ordinated and consistent approach to curriculum delivery has been adopted with clearly identified learning outcomes for all drug education activities
- opportunities for cross-curricular approaches are being used where appropriate
- the impact of training for staff and governors on practice is evaluated
- policy and practice is regularly revised and involves staff, governors and where appropriate young people
- opportunities for parents, carers and members of our community to consider the purpose and nature of our Drug Education, for example, through drug awareness parents evenings

## Section 3 Preventing, Reducing and Responding to Drug-related Situations and Incidents in our school

### Drug-related Situations and Incidents

In the following section we will use these terms:

**Drug use:** The consumption of any drug.

**Drug misuse:** Drug taking which harms physical, mental or social wellbeing. This could, for example, include physical or psychological dependence, improper use of medicines, intoxication, breach of school rules or the law.

**Authorised drug use:** Where drug use is accepted by the school. Reference might be made to these in other of the school's policies e.g. [Smoke Free Policy](#), [Medicines Policy](#).

**Unauthorised drug use:** Where use is restricted or prohibited e.g alcohol, tobacco, medicines or new psychoactive substances

### Drug-related Situations

A drug-related situation is one involving the use of any authorised drug by a child or adult in school. A situation might be ongoing, but will have been discussed and planned for.

Drug-related situations might include:

- the storage or use of alcohol on the premises by staff, parents or other users of our premises
- the sale or award of alcohol e.g. raffle prizes
- the storage or use of medicines on the premises by staff, parents or children
- the use of tobacco or alcohol by staff, away from the premises, while taking part in events or residential trips

### Drug-related Incidents

A drug-related incident is one where there is evidence or suspicion of specific events involving unauthorised or illegal drug possession, use or supply. We will need to react to this event, in order to prevent or reduce harm.

Drug-related incidents include:

- Disclosure by a child of their own unauthorised or illegal drug use or alleged use by another person
- Unauthorised or illegal drugs being possessed or used on the school premises
- Physical evidence of unauthorised or illegal drug use being found on or around the school premises
- Supply or intended supply of unauthorised or illegal drugs on the school premises
- Community concerns about unauthorised or illegal drug use by an adult working with children
- Community concerns about unauthorised or illegal drug use by children
- Children disclose they are adversely affected by the drug use or misuse of others
- The intimidation of a child by peers or others in relation to drug use.

### Responding to Drug-related Situations and Incidents

The use, possession or supply of illegal drugs will not be tolerated on our school site, neither will the unauthorised use of legal drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco and new psychoactive substances.

All staff will be aware of the basic procedures for dealing with a drug-related incident. The Head Teacher will take responsibility for any required action.

Responses to situations or incidents involving any drug will seek to balance the interests and safety of the individual and others involved.

If necessary we will seek advice when considering our response to any drug-related incident. We will record each drug-related. If we are considering the involvement of the Police in an incident, we will refer ACPO/DfE Guidance.

The likelihood of a child being the instigator of a drug-related incident in school is extremely low. However, where an incident involves a child at our school, we will seek to involve parent/carers, if appropriate, and gain advice and support from specialist services and Children's Services. Exclusion may be a final option, if other sanctions have not been successful.

In the very unlikely event that a child's person or property must be searched for a prohibited item, such as an illegal or unauthorised drug, we will refer to 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation' DfE 2012

Following every drug-related incident, procedures will be reviewed and evaluated. The Head Teacher will lead this review and will involve a link governor.

## **Responsibility for Preventing and Responding to Drug-related Incidents**

- Solvents and hazardous chemicals will be stored in accordance with our Health and Safety policy, which refers to Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Guidelines. The person responsible for overseeing this policy is the Head Teacher.
- If a substance is found on our premises, it will initially be reported to the Head Teacher, who will record the nature of the incident and plan necessary action.
- In a situation where a child is involved in unauthorised drug use on school premises, the Head Teacher will normally inform the child's parents. If a decision is made not to inform parents, this will be documented.
- If the Head Teacher believes an offence has been committed by staff or pupils, he or she will consider informing the police, taking advice if necessary. If the decision is made not to inform the police this will be documented. On most occasions the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) will be the first contact.

Should the press contact the school regarding a drug-related incident or situation, a press release will be issued in collaboration with the County Press Office. The Chair of Governors will be the main contact for the press. We will refer to our 'Critical Incidents' policy.

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality guidance is not altered by the fact that a case involves drugs. Where there is a genuine risk to the safety of the child,

information must be passed on to individuals and/or organisations responsible for protecting the child. It is likely that such responses will fall within the remit of other policies such as Safeguarding and Child Protection, Behaviour and Health and Safety.

Staff may have to pass on information to fulfil their professional and moral duties in relation to:

- child protection
- co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external services, such as drug agencies.

Any information disclosed to a staff member or other responsible adult, which is deemed to be of a serious nature, will be communicated to the designated person as soon as possible and always within 24 hours.

The designated person may choose to respect a child's wish for confidentiality only in cases where:

- there is no cause to believe that confidentiality will endanger or put the child or others at risk
- disclosure itself may place the child at risk.

It is our policy to inform parents and carers as soon as possible, when a child has been involved in a drug-related incident, except in situations where such information could prejudice their safety. The person responsible for Child Protection will be asked for guidance in this instance.

Children will be told clearly what information is to be passed on and to whom and their agreement will be sought. We will support the child in dealing with possible consequences.

## **School Boundaries and School Visits**

We will make clear to staff and parent/carers the rules which apply to individual visits or group trips, including other areas where direct responsibility lies with the parent/carer (primarily, school/home transport and the close environment of the school). In these situations we will work in partnership with parents/carers and, where appropriate, the wider community. Clear guidance will be given to staff regarding their supervision responsibilities and their own drug use (e.g. of alcohol, tobacco and medicine).

## Section 4

## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Curriculum for Drug Education at Pendragon Primary School

#### Year 1/2

<b>Healthy and Safer Lifestyles 8</b> <b>Drug Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What happens when things enter the body?</li><li>• What are medicines and why do some people use them?</li><li>• What do I understand about the roles of doctors, nurses and hospitals?</li><li>• What can I do if I feel poorly?</li><li>• What are the potentially risky substances at home and at school?</li><li>• How can I keep safe from harm if I come across risky substances?</li><li>• What is it like to be persuaded?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicines</li><li>• Attitudes to health professionals</li><li>• Feeling ill, feeling better</li><li>• Risky household substances</li><li>• Safety rules</li><li>• Being persuaded</li></ul>
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#### Year 3/4

<b>Healthy and Safer Lifestyles 15</b> <b>Drug Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What medical and legal drugs do I know about, and what are their effects?</li><li>• Who uses and misuses legal drugs?</li><li>• Why do some people need medicine and who gives it?</li><li>• What are the safety rules for storing medicine and other risky substances?</li><li>• What should I do if I find something risky, like a syringe?</li><li>• What do I understand about how friends and the media influence me?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Medicines and legal drugs</li><li>• People who use medicines and legal drugs</li><li>• Rules for safe storage</li><li>• Finding risky items</li><li>• Influence of friends and media</li></ul>
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#### Year 5/6

<b>Healthy and Safer Lifestyles 22</b> <b>Drug Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What do I know about medicines, alcohol, nicotine, solvents and illegal drugs and how they affect people who use them and others?</li><li>• How does drug use affect the way a body or brain works?</li><li>• How do medicines help people with a range of illnesses?</li><li>• What does misusing a drug mean?</li><li>• What are some of the laws about drugs?</li><li>• What risks should I look for around substances?</li><li>• How do my friends influence my behaviour and decision making?</li><li>• How and why do companies advertise drugs?</li><li>• When and how should I check information I am given?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Legal and illegal drugs</li><li>• Effects of drug use</li><li>• Essential use of medicines</li><li>• Misuse of substances</li><li>• Staying safe around risky substances</li><li>• Influence of friends and media</li><li>• Reliable information</li><li>• First aid</li></ul>
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