

Yorke Mead Primary School

Drug Education Policy

May 2026



Our School Vision Statement

BRINGING LEARNING to LIFE

We are a school dedicated to creating an environment where children are able to grow into happy, well-rounded individuals with a love of learning through which they can achieve to the best of their abilities.

We want our pupils to enter the wider world as

- Happy, positive individuals*
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution*
- Confident, resilient, healthy & life-long learners.*

DARE TO...

D - Determination

A - Ambition

R - Resilience

E – Enjoyment

T - Trust

O - Openness

Formation of policy and teaching programme

This policy was first devised in 2002 as part of our Healthy School programme and has been reviewed regularly since then. All staff are made aware of the policy as part of the health education aspects of the PSHE work. Governors are responsible for reviewing this policy.

The policy is published on the school website and is available on the staff network (under Governors/school policies). A hard copy is available in the school office.

Context of the policy and its relationship to other policies.

The Education Reform Act, 1988, entitles every pupil to a broad and balanced curriculum which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of all our pupils
- prepares our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life

Drugs education forms a part of our broad and balanced curriculum. We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future. We are aware that:

- All primary school aged children have some drugs education needs
- Their needs vary according to where they live, how old they are and their experience of drug misuse
- Teachers need support and resources to be able to meet these needs

The policy links with the school's Health and Safety Policy (see the administration of medicines) and the Behaviour Policy (see unacceptable behaviour).

The purpose of the policy

The purpose of the policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Safeguard the health and safety of the pupils and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parent/carers, outside agencies and the wider communities.
- Give guidance to developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises and any incidents that occur with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

The policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and outside agencies working with the school. It also applies to groups that run activities on the school site.

Definitions

We define the term "drug" as any substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

"Drug education" is about the all of the above drugs and the skills of growing up safely within a society that uses drugs for many different purposes, it does not focus solely on illegal or illegally used substances.

Drugs, health and the needs of pupils.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable. School boundaries include the school premises and grounds, journeys or visits in school time and residential trips. It also includes extended school activities on the school site and activities run by other groups on the school site.

The school has procedures in place for the administration of prescribed medicines. (See Health and Safety policy and procedures and our policy on Supporting Children with a Medical Condition). The school does not as a general policy administer non-prescribed medicines, any agreement to do so is at the discretion of the head teacher.

No child should bring any form of drug or medicine into school. All medicines are to be managed by adults at all times. The only exception to this would involve a child carrying their own inhaler or any medicines which a health professional has dictated must be with the child at all times and on completion of any necessary risk plans to consider the safety of other children alongside the safety of that child. This can only be following consultation with the school.

Arrangements for the use and storage of volatile substances are set out in the Health and Safety policy.

Alcohol may be available at some events organised by the Friends of Yorke Mead such as the bottle tombola at the Christmas Fayre. Alcohol is not stored on the school site. Children under 18 years old will not be given bottles containing alcohol as a prize.

The school is smoke free and has a separate non-smoking policy which applies to all visitors to the school. This non-smoking policy includes vaping, which is also not allowed on the school site.

The priority in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

Roles and responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All adults employed at Yorke Mead have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour. They have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incidents and receive training and support in delivering their responsibilities.

Teaching will be informed by our existing policies on behaviour, bullying, health and safety, equal opportunities, outside visits, confidentiality and child protection.

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that policy and practice are followed, including appropriate curriculum content and responses to drug related incidents. The Headteacher is also the designated person for child protection.

The Personal Development Lead and PSHE subject leader is responsible for overseeing both curriculum delivery and other elements of school life contributing to drug education. This will include monitoring and evaluating policy and practice throughout the school. The subject leaders will work with other subject leaders to identify cross-curricular links.

Teachers and support staff have a responsibility for the taught curriculum for drug education. They listen to pupils and determine their specific needs. These needs are met in specific drug education inputs as well as through a wider programme of personal and social skills development.

Should at any point during this process staff become aware of anything that indicates a safeguarding concern, the normal safeguarding policy and processes will apply and should be implemented in a timely manner.

Aims

In providing drugs education we aim to:

- enable our pupils to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills
- help children to value themselves and others and to help and support each other
- listen to our pupils' thoughts, feelings and concerns so that our teaching responds to their needs
- encourage an understanding of children and adults dependent on medicinal drugs
- develop personal and social skills such as refusal skills and decision making skills
- empower children to take increasing responsibility for themselves and their actions

- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- help our pupils distinguish between different substances, considering their use, misuse, benefit and harm
- give unbiased and correct information
- widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- enable our pupils to identify where help and support can be found
- to develop as a health promoting school

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and possible drug related incidents
- a broad, progressively constructed programme in which the subject is revisited each year
- a child centred approach that responds to the needs of individual children
- content and teaching approaches that match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and English as an additional language
- clearly defined outcomes for lessons and other inputs
- the use of active learning and group work, focusing on role play and discussion
- the involvement of the whole community including all staff, parents and carers, governors, pupils and local health organisations
- training and support for staff in the planning and delivery of drugs education
- the use of cross-curricular links, in particular with English, Science and PSHE.
- regular revision of policy and practice

Teaching Programme

The school use the Jigsaw PSHE scheme and their units of work throughout the year. Drug Education links with the 'Healthy Me' unit of work. This includes:

- a whole school PSHE half term unit which will enable staff to support each other, create a sense of purpose for the pupils and stimulate interest and enjoyment, provide a focus for whole school displays, assemblies and outside visitors, ensure essential curriculum coverage and progression, enable parents and governors to be informed and involved and give value to a new curriculum area
- assemblies linked to the PSHE theme
- use of story and circle time
- planned elements of national curriculum subjects such as persuasive writing or media studies in English, Science topics relating to healthy living
- occasional planned and negotiated visits from the school nurse, drama groups or other appropriate people.

Teachers need to create a climate of trust, support and honesty that enhances self-esteem and provides a safe environment in which to discuss and share their feelings, explore their values and attitudes, express their opinions and consider those of others. Ground rules will be negotiated, recognising the sensitivity of the work and safeguarding the interests of both the individual and the whole class.

Annual PHSE questionnaires and the 'Jugs and Herrings' activity may be used to decide which aspects of illegal drug use are appropriate for year 6. This will vary from year to year.

County Lines

County lines represents a significant threat to young people, who make up a large proportion of those involved. In the past these young people have been treated as offenders – a part of the problem. Only recently has it been recognised that many of these young people enter this world of criminality as victims.

In 2017, the Home Office, National Crime Agency, the National Police Chief's Council, the Children's Society and Victim Support, as well as a number of smaller, individual organisations released new guidance on approaching the county lines problem as awareness around the issue continues to grow. Recognising young people at risk and intervening early is a key part of the strategy.

Children in Key Stage 2 will be made aware of the importance of the importance of keeping themselves safe in the community and speaking to people if they feel uncomfortable about anything they are being

asked to do or anyone's behaviour towards them. There is no direct teaching about county lines, but all of the work we do around resilience and keeping ourselves safe supports the work to help prevent children becoming entangled within this.

Measures of Success

Monitoring

The Personal Develop and PSHE subject leaders will monitor delivery of the work in PSHE and the drug education within this, and will discuss its impact with teaching staff as part of the overview of the PSHE curriculum. Examples of pupils' work and/or photographs of activities and displays as part of the PSHE file may be collected demonstrating good practice.

Additional information

The governing body will review this policy every two years.

Involvement of parents/carers

Parents will be informed about any drugs related incident which involves their child, unless this puts the child at risk of significant harm, in which case normal safeguarding procedures would be followed.

Parents will be kept informed about the school's approach and rationale for drug education.

The school will help parent's access information about drugs and about local and national sources of help.

This policy will be available to all parents on the school website.

Management of drugs at school.

We will refer to the Hertfordshire guidelines and the implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.

Drugs in school

All prescribed class A drugs will be kept in a locked cabinet, in accordance with the Health and Safety policy.

Unauthorised drugs found in school will be confiscated.

In taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs staff will follow the following procedure:

- A second adult witness will be present throughout
- The sample will be sealed in a plastic bag and details of the time, date and witnesses present will be recorded.
- The sample will be stored in a secure location such as the school safe with access limited to 2 members of staff.
- The police will be notified immediately. They will collect the sample and store or dispose of it according to locally agreed protocols.
- Full details of the incident including the police reference number will be recorded.
- Parents/carers will be informed unless this would put the pupil at risk of harm.

Disposal of drug paraphernalia.

If needles or syringes are found on school premises they will be placed in a sturdy, secure container. They will be disposed of according to advice from TRDC Environmental Health department.

Response to a drug related incident

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary as recommended by LEA and national guidance. It is important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

If a child or adult needs medical support staff will seek assistance immediately, contacting an ambulance if necessary.

Except in exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents/carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve difficulties. If this would put the child's safety at risk the concerns will be discussed with the DSP.

All incidents are recorded. Records are stored securely in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. All notes about an incident should include the time, date, place and people present.

The Local Authority will be notified of any drug related incident.

Working in partnership with the police

The school will work closely with the police if there is a drug related incident.

The school will consult the police about any concerns about illegal drug use within the local community.

The police will be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

Parents/carers under the influence of drugs or alcohol

All visitors to school including parents should come into school through the school office. Office will refuse entry to a parent/carer they feel is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and may cause a danger to themselves or others. If staff feel a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and are concerned about their own or others' safety the police will be called.

Referral and external support

The school will refer pupils to other services such as the behaviour support (Integrated services), Youth Connections or the school nurse, when appropriate.

When a child is at risk of suffering significant harm the school will follow its child protection procedures.

School staff

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

Confidentiality

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within the child protection guidelines and must state clearly that they may not guarantee confidentiality.

All staff will be made aware of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the head teacher.