

# Baddow Hall Infant School



## Drugs Policy

Ratified by Governing Body: December 2021

Signed: Nick Banister- Dudley

Review Date: December 2024

## **Drugs Policy**

### **This policy should be read in alongside the policies for Child Protection, PSHE, and Supporting children with medical needs.**

#### **Introduction**

In 2012 the DfE updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance and also accords with advice in the Healthy Schools Programme and guidance from the LA.

#### **Aims**

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- give guidance to staff on 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.

#### **What is a drug?**

A drug is a substance which when taken into the body:

- by mouth, inhalation, or by skin or eye drops,

all change the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our body works.

#### **The presence of unauthorised drugs in Baddow Hall Infant School is not acceptable.**

We want our school to be a safe place for children and adults and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

#### **Responsibilities**

##### **The Headteacher will:**

- ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- manage any drug-related incidents;
- 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;
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

##### **The governing body will:**

- designate a safeguarding governor with specific responsibility for drugs education;
- establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy;
- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

#### **Objectives of drugs education**

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- Teach pupils how to be safe when using medicines and household substances.
- Teach pupils the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules and laws.

- Teach pupils to understand that all medicines and drugs can harm if not administered according to the instructions from the doctor, nurse, pharmacist or dentist.
- Teach pupils that a prescription is for the person to whom it was prescribed. Medicines must not be shared.
- Build on knowledge and understanding.

### **Drugs education**

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in the Foundation Stage, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have parents who abuse drugs.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. Lessons that incorporate drugs education form part of our whole approach to promoting a healthy lifestyle.

### **Drugs at school**

Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into school. Where children have medical needs, parents must inform the school of the child's condition and medication and a method of administration will be planned with the Head teacher and office staff. (See the policy for supporting children with medical needs for detailed information on administering medicines.)

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils.

Medication is held securely in the medicines cabinet and is legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school.

### **Drugs incidents**

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated person does not represent a medical emergency. However, they should not be left on their own because they could injure themselves or others, or if vomiting occurs, this may be inhaled causing the person to become unconscious.

Pupils/staff/parents, suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

### **Controlled drugs**

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated. The headteacher will

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;

- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols.
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

The head teacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

### **The role of parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

To promote this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety.

Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

This policy will be reviewed regularly.