



MELLERS PRIMARY SCHOOL
DRUG EDUCATION
January 2025

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DOCUMENT VERSION HISTORY		
Revision date	Author of changes	Summary of changes

The purpose of the policy

At Mellers Primary School, we understand that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education. The DfE advises all schools to have an up-to-date Drugs Policy.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- give a clear view on the use of drugs in school
- provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur and the approach taken by the school
- give information about what is taught and how it is taught
- give guidance to teachers, support staff, parents and visitors about drug education

Other policies that relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- Equal opportunities policy
- Behaviour policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs
- PSHE policy

The Definition of Drugs

The definition of drugs used in this policy is the definition given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: “a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”.

This refers to both legal and illegal drugs:

-Illegal drugs* (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) such as ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD, ketamine, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS – formerly known as ‘legal highs’), GHB, anabolic steroids and khat

-Drugs that are legal to use but are covered by some legislation such as selling to under 18-year-olds including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, shisha and volatile substances (solvents)

-Drugs that are legal to use and buy such as poppers, caffeine drinks

-Over-the-counter and prescription medicines

*Nitrous Oxide is not illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act but is illegal to produce, supply, sell or import for human consumptions under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Definitions of other key words:

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems.

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence.

Development of the policy

This policy was drafted by the PSHE curriculum leader and checked by the Headteacher.

We have taken account of key national and local guidance including:

- Programme of Study produced by PSHE Association (January 2020)
- DfE Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education Statutory Guidance (June 2020)

Management of drugs at school and on school trips

Storage And Administration of Medicines

In this school, the delegated First Aiders are responsible for administering medication, its safe storage and keeping of appropriate records. Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in the office.

Additional information will be provided by parents/ carers if pupils are going on trips or residentials and a designated staff member will carry the medication and be responsible for safe storage and administration in line with the policy

School's view about the use of drugs

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers, on or near the school premises, within and outside the school day and during term time or holiday periods, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working in and visiting the school. The school acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate, this will be recorded on an admissions form stored in the office.

There is no legal duty, which requires teachers to administer medication; this is a voluntary role and will only be called upon in exceptional circumstances. Where exceptional circumstances exist, a contract will be agreed between the school and the parent or carer and records kept appropriately. Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals are set out in the Health and Safety policy.

Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parents' events and staff/governor social events. Staff accompanying pupils on field trips or school journeys are not permitted to drink when responsible for pupils.

Smoking

A no-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. This policy will be in line with the required workplace smoke free policy. The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises.

Support for children and their families

We are sensitive to the needs of students whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and, if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family.

As a school, we can have a role in early help with young people affected by drug use. We will offer a curriculum that reflects children's experiences and does not seek to scare, judge, sensationalise or stereotype in relation to substances, opting instead for a pro-health choice approach through PSHE.

We welcome parents/carers who wish to share with us their concerns about drugs. We provide information to parents/carers, such as in this policy, about our drug education programme and support. Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However, there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the child at risk and, in these exceptional cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher, who is also the DSL, with the child's welfare a priority.

In addition, we will provide discrete support for children affected by substance use in their family, in partnership with specialist agencies. Place2be, CGL 'Journey' Education Link Worker Service, Explore Family

Drug Education

We will offer a curriculum that reflects children's experiences and does not seek to scare, judge, sensationalise or stereotype in relation to substances, opting instead for a pro-health choice approach through PSHE. Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco is taught mainly through PSHE and citizenship and in science, where it is required in the National Curriculum. Drug education covers the teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco (including e-cigarettes and shisha) and is a key part of preventing drug misuse and promoting the health and well-being of young people.

Aims of drug education

- to give pupils age-appropriate and accurate information about the effects and risks of substances (including substances in the home, and alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances and illegal drugs)
- help pupils to develop the skills and attitudes to keep safe, manage situations and make healthy and responsible decisions

To achieve this, our drug education programme will help pupils:

- gain knowledge and understanding about the effects, risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings;
- develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs;
- develop skills to keep safe and manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others;
- explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences.

We will ensure that opportunities are secured across the curriculum for drugs education and a broad range of up-to-date resources are available to support this. We use the Jed and Ted drug and alcohol resource, which is accredited by the PSHE Association. The Drug Aware Jed and Ted materials ensure the programme is developmental and appropriate to the needs of the children in each year.

We endeavour to deliver a minimum entitlement of:

5 hours at KS1

12 hours at KS2

Ideally drug education will occur more than once in each key stage to take in the rapidly changing developmental, social and cultural experiences of our children.

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises. Pupils are taught what to do if they come across any unusual item on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

Reporting and recording a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher. Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform Police immediately of any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact Trading Standards or the Police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol or solvents to under-age pupils from local shops. The Headteacher is permitted by law to authorise personal and property searches for drugs if there are reasonable suspicions that they are being concealed. The police will be involved in an advisory capacity where serious incidents occur but the school will deal with minor incidents internally as advised by the ACPO guidance.

All drug-related incidents are recorded. In all drug-related incidents, the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support. It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school; however, we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Intoxicated parents/carers

The school's drugs policy applies to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk, then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

Staff support and training

We will audit our staff's needs and confidence in relation to delivering effective and up to date drug education and access training as necessary to meet these needs.

Governors will be informed of the drug programme and can access training as required, through the authority's governor services programme or the PSHE Advisory Team NCC

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every three years by senior staff, governors and the PSHE curriculum leader, to ensure it is a reflection of current best practice and in line with local and national guidance and legislation. This review will take into account any feedback or review of our PSHE teaching and learning.