

Medlock Primary School



Anti-Drugs Policy

Adopted - May 2022

Review - May 2025

Aims and Expectations

Medlock Primary School operates within the statutory, legislative and local policy framework in relation to the use and/or misuse of all drugs.

Through drug education we aim to enable children and young people to have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be able to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life and be aware of the possible consequences of drug use and misuse.

We believe that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to health and safety. The person responsible for managing drug related incidents will be the Headteacher.

Values and Ethos

We believe in

- A commitment to the health and safety of all children and young people and taking action to safeguard their wellbeing, including the misuse of medicines by pupils.
- Emphasising the importance of the school's pastoral role in the welfare of all children and young people, to include seeking to provide appropriate support for members of the school who are in need or referral to an appropriate specialist agency.
- A commitment that drug incidents, such as drug use or possession, should only result in exclusion when all other possible responses have been explored
- Awareness that whilst members of the school may choose to use and misuse substances, it is recognised that the majority may choose not to use or misuse substances. As part of their social inclusion responsibilities schools will be expected to continue to support the differing needs of all members of the school community.

Definition

Drugs are defined broadly and include any substance that has the potential to affect how a person thinks, feels or behaves. This includes legal as well as illicit drugs, medicines, tobacco, alcohol and solvents.

A drug incident occurs when there is evidence, discussion or suspicion of a specific event at school involving one or more unauthorised drugs.

The role of the Headteacher

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 role of the Governing Body

The governing body will designate a 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.

The role of Teachers

We regard drug 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 Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.

In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.

We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

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 drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes, a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional. In teaching this course, we follow the DfES and LA guidelines. The resources and materials that we use are recommended either by the

Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

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, invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school, answer any questions that parents may have about the drugs education that 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, encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary, 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.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident. If a child, parent, volunteer or member of staff is found to have an illegal substance in their possession other services (including the Police) will be consulted on how best to address the situation.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent. When a parent is identified as possibly intoxicated, senior leadership will need to be consulted immediately. Senior leadership (in conjunction with the member of staff) will make an assessment of the situation and if the parent is deemed to be in no fit state to take the child they will be challenged and asked to make alternative arrangements. The incident will be logged and other services will be consulted on how best to address the situation.

Drugs at School

Where children have medical needs, parents must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Please see the medical policy.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, with glues and with board-cleaning fluids.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure.

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 pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils 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.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

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. Other agencies (including children's services and/or the Police) will be consulted on how best to address the situation.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays, etc.

A full record will be made of any incident.

Managing Drug-related Incidents:

When a drug related incident occurs each incident will be treated individually a variety of responses may be required. The needs of the individual(s) are paramount, but these must be balanced against the needs and safety of other members of the school. The individual will be listened to, assessed and wider agencies involved to help support. Permanent exclusion will be seen as the last resort. The Head teacher will inform and involve parents/ carers at the earliest opportunity in order that they are able to work together with any other appropriate agencies to support the young person involved. A decision may be taken that it is in the best interest of the young person not to inform the parents, if the circumstances indicate that this may put them at risk.

If a member of staff is involved in a drug – related incident the school will need to follow the Manchester City Council policy on Drug and Alcohol Misuse.

Success Criteria

Pupils' perceptions that information on drugs provided at school is relevant and appropriate to their needs, access is provided to confidential services if required, information about specialist services is needed if required, improved quality of teaching on drug-related issues, quality standard for wider agencies adhered to, increased number of staff who have received specialist training in drug education/ incident management.

Methods of data collection

- Surveys of pupils' perceptions
- Monitoring coverage of drug issues in the curriculum
- Teacher observations / self evaluation
- Feedback from OFSTED
- Records of drug-related incidents
- Records of drug-related exclusions
- Monitoring input of wider agencies against quality standard
- Records of specialist training attended by staff