

Forest Fields Primary and Nursery School



Drug Policy

September 2025

Approved at the meeting of the Governing Board held on: 23rd September 2025

Signed: James Verran

Position: Chair of Governors

Date to be reviewed: September 2026

This policy is based on:

The DfE / ACPO guidance document Advice for Schools and the 2017 Drugs Strategy -Responding to Strategic directions on:

- *Reducing Demand*
- *Prevention and education*
- *Building Confidence, Resilience and Skills*
- *Using effective resources,*
- *Applying targeted approaches and support where appropriate.*
- *Promoting A universal approach across the life-course of young people in school*

The purpose of the policy

In response to the 2017 Drugs Strategy, the school is committed to a healthy, preventative environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances i.e. medicines: tobacco and alcohol) - by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances is condoned.

The first concern in managing drugs and drugs incidents, is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils

We will continue to meet our responsibilities toward delivering the 2017 Drugs Strategy, providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares pupils for the choices they may be required to make in a drug-using world.

What we mean by ‘Drugs’

Drugs means all prescribed and over the counter medication, tobacco and nicotine products including e-cigarettes, alcohol and novel psychoactive substances (NPSs or legal highs), solvents glues or gasses or other intoxicants misused to get high and illegal drugs as covered by the misuse of drugs act.

Local and national references

This policy was written using the Drugs Strategy 2017, DfE/ACPO Drug Advice for School 2012, ADEPIS and Mentor guidance and with additional advice and Local Authority information from the PSHE Advisory Service DrugAware Consultant.

Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), all illegal drugs, volatile substances (solvents and gasses) and over- the - counter and prescription medicines.

The policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies to staff, pupils and visitors to the school. This is not only within the school boundaries defined by the boundary fence and gates at the front of the building and the boundary fence along the sides and back of the building and around our field and on all school visits, but also on trips and residential activities, including those made outside of normal school hours. It will also be upheld on our minibus or any hired buses for trips and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

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

- Equal opportunities Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Medical Needs Policy
- PSHE Policy

Management of drugs at school and on school trips

Storage and Administration of Medicines

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 main office or on a medicines information slip provided by 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.

Our named 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 First Aid Room in either the refrigerator or the labelled secure cupboard. Further details can be found in our Medical Needs Policy, this is based on 'managing medicines in schools and early years settings 2007'

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

Illicit Drugs and Support for Children and Families

We acknowledge that in today's society it may be likely that young people may encounter drugs such as alcohol, cannabis and nitrous oxide (laughing gas). 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 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. A sharps bin is available to clear up found sharps. Similarly, if illicit substances are found or confiscated these will be safely stored and arrangements made with the police for their safe disposal.

The Headteacher is permitted by law to authorise personal and property searches for drugs if there are reasonable suspicions that they are being concealed. Any such searches will be inline with the DfE Guidance ["Searching, Screening and Confiscation"](#) July 2022.

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.

As a school, we can have a role in early help with young people affected by drug use. Parents will be informed of incidents unless there is a reason not to (such as an ongoing investigation or a safeguarding concern).

Smoking

A no-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. This policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises.

Alcohol

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community, including visitors, is prohibited.

Transitions

If a pupil is excluded or involved in a manage move, or if they have known issues around substances (either their own or family) this will be addressed in their transition plan.

Information sharing

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils and parent/carers will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and will be necessary for the safeguarding of the young person. The sharing of the information will be done sensitively and, on a need, to know basis. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of inappropriate information is kept to a minimum.

Drug Education

Drug Education forms a part of the statutory order for National Curriculum Science and will also be provided in the broader context or in planned relationship to PSHE. 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.

Ideally our drug education will occur more than once in each key stage to take in the rapidly changing developmental and social and cultural experiences of the children. Concentrating on the drugs most relevant to the age and experiences of the young people, such as medicines, tobacco and alcohol, we

will embed our learning within a wider framework of resilience-building and social/emotional skills development. It will take account of religious and cultural practices around drugs and alcohol.

Support from visitors

The 2017 Drugs Strategy recognises that visiting providers, specifically police, ex-users or those who use shocking stories, facts or accounts of drugs use are the least effective form of education. Whilst the school appreciates the valuable contribution of some outside agencies, it recognises that these visitors should bring 'education-savvy' contributions that support an in-school taught programme from trained teachers. External visits or one-off experiences, not in any wider context, alone does not constitute a complete drug education

programme. We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made by visitors to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject.

Staff support and training

We will support our staff with ongoing training as part of our ongoing CPD programme.

Governance

This policy is current and will be reviewed by our Governors annually.