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Heathfields Infant & Wilnecote Junior Academy

# Drugs Education Policy

### **Document Control**

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| **Document Title** | Drugs Education Policy | |
| **Effective Date** | | 22nd October 2022 |
| **Review Date** | 22nd October 2024 | |
| **Policy Owner** | Lauren Paskin | |
| **Policy Approver** |  | |

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### **Version Control**

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| **Version** | **Date** | **Amended by** | **Comments** |
| **1** | **22/10/21** | **Lauren Paskin** |  |
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| **Section** | **Changes Made** |
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### **Rationale**

At Wilnecote Junior and Heathfields Infant Academy, we recognise the increasing drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance. We seek to educate our pupils about the effects of drug use and drug misuse through the implementation of our Jigsaw PSHE programme.

### **Definitions**

A **drug** is a substance that can cause a physiological and/or psychological change in a body that can be either negative or positive. The term ‘drugs’ refers to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

**Drug use** is drug taking, for example, consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, whether through intoxication, breach of the law or of school rules, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately apparent. Drug use will require interventions such as management, education, advice and information, and prevention work to reduce the potential harm.

**Drug misuse** is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour and require specific interventions, including treatment.

Curriculum Underpinning

Whilst PSHE education remains a non-statutory subject, section 2.5 of the National Curriculum framework document states that: “All schools should make provision for personal, social, health and economic education (PSHE), drawing on good practice.”

It goes on to note that:

“Schools should seek to use PSHE education to build, where appropriate, on the statutory content already outlined in the National Curriculum, the basic school curriculum and in statutory guidance on: drug education, financial education, sex and relationship education (RSE) and the importance of physical activity and diet for a healthy lifestyle.”

In spite of this flexibility, all schools have statutory duties to meet. As section 2.1. of the National Curriculum states:

“Every state funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

* Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils at the school and of society.
* Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.”

These duties are set out in the 2002 Education Act and the 2010 Academies Act. Schools also have statutory responsibilities in relation to promoting pupil wellbeing and pupil safeguarding (Children’s Act 2004) and community cohesion (Education Act 2006). PSHE Education plays an important part in fulfilling all of the responsibilities.

Aims

The school believes that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate for their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

Through the ‘Healthy Me’ element of our Jigsaw PSHE curriculum we have prioritised are range of objectives in relation to Drug Education. This program is relevant to the needs of all pupils, is flexible, and develops as pupils grow older.

At Key Stage 1, pupils are taught to be safe with medicines and household substances, making healthy informed choices and following safety rules.

In Year 3, pupils are taught to:

* To develop an understanding of their own attitudes towards drugs.
* To understand that, like medicines, some household substances can be harmful if not used correctly.

In Year 4, pupils are taught to:

* To understand the facts about smoking and its effects on health.
* To understand the facts about alcohol and its effects on health.
* To equip children with the understanding of when they may be put under pressure to use drugs and how to avoid drug misuse.

In Year 5, pupils are taught to:

* To understand the health risks of tobacco and how this impacts the body.
* To recognise the risks of misusing alcohol and its effects on the body.

In Year 6, pupils are taught to:

* To develop an understanding of different types of drugs, their uses and effects on the body.
* To understand that people can be exploited to use and misuse drugs.
* To understand how gangs can influence young people to misuse drugs.
* To understand how stress can cause drug and alcohol misuse.

In order to provide the children with an extensive and effective drugs education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed. The school aims to deliver this area of the curriculum through a variety of approaches including, but not limited to: circle time, working in pairs and groups as well as whole class, brainstorming, use of drama and role play, use of stories, involvement of other organisations and visitors.

Resources

Resources that support this area of the curriculum will be up-to-date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE. Jigsaw PSHE regularly updates its resources and any updates will be shared with staff by the PSHE leads across both sites to ensure that the delivery and implementation of drugs education in school is consistently relevant for all pupils.

Staffing and Staff Development

All staff, including support staff, should have access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education program implemented in school and its style of delivery.

Partnerships

The school values its work in partnership with parents and carers and with the wider school community. We see this as an essential element of developing this policy and the school’s drug education program. We also aim to support parents in their efforts to inform their children. We do this through newsletters and the school website alongside our school’s social media accounts on both Twitter and Instagram: @hiwjstaffs.

Equality of Opportunity

The school has a commitment to Equal Opportunities and this will be built into all aspects of Drug Education. We recognise that some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviours are/are not acceptable. Where pupils are taking prescribed medication, they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. In all cases, the Headteacher should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

Pupil Discipline and Support

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a pupil following any drug-related incidents and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account. Our Behaviour Policy has clear sanctions for breaking school rules and a variety of consequences/sanctions are possible. Exclusion may be appropriate in rare and serious cases. All incidents will be recorded by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Confiscating an Illegal Drug and its Disposal

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses, the headteacher may decide the contact parents and/or the Police Schools Liaison Officer. We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously over-react and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies.

If the drug can’t be identified it will be treated as illegal and well be removed and either secured until it can be taken to a pharmacist for disposal or handed to the police as soon as possible. We will always ensure that a witness is present when disposing of any drug. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection Policy issues. We will keep a written record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

The Site Manager will look for signs of drug misuse during his regular check of the school site and will make arrangements for the safe and secure disposal of dangerous matter in accordance with the above guidelines. This, as previously stated, will also be treated with seriousness and will be reported to SLT.

Smoking

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Any disregard for school restrictions will be treated as any other breach of school discipline.