



Drugs Policy

Review Date Autumn 2026

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day; Working Together



DRUGS POLICY

Review Date – Autumn 2026

Based on the DfE / ACPO guidance document

School: Crabtree Farm Primary School

The purpose of the policy

The school is committed to a healthy 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 is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils

We wish to continuously work towards being a Drug Aware School in all aspects of school life, 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.

Development process

We involved stakeholders such as, staff, pupils and governors in developing this policy. It is available from the office and on the school website and will be updated every 2 years.

Local and national references

This policy was written using the DfE/ACPO Drug Advice for School 2012 with additional advice and Local Authority information from the Early Intervention Team Drug Aware 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, 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 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 all school buses and may be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.



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

- Equalities policy
- Behaviour policy
- Health and Safety policy
- PSHE policy
- Supporting children with medical needs policy
- Safeguarding 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 admissions paperwork, medical information forms, individual care plans and consent to administer medicine forms; which are all stored in the main office or on the school server.

There is no legal duty, which requires teachers or school staff 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.

In this school delegated members of staff are responsible for administering medication, its safe storage and keeping of appropriate records. Other than an inhaler or auto-injector, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in the office or the medicinal refrigerator, both of which are secure and labelled.

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 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 or cannabis. 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.

In addition we will provide discrete support for children affected by substance use in their family, in partnership with specialist agencies.

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 grounds to suspect 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.

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:

Nottingham City Council operates a No Smoking Policy. The 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 also prohibited except for occasional adult functions out of school hours. This is with the prior permission of the school's management.

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 plans and assisted by the Lifeline Journey Education Link Worker.

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 of 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. We base our programme on the needs of young people, gathering information through surveys, discussion and research of local data.

We deliver the entitlement of drug education through the CORAM project.

Concentrating on the drugs most relevant to the age and experiences of the young people (such as medicines, tobacco and alcohol) linking to PSHE to acknowledge their feelings about other people's drug/alcohol use and build resilience skills.



We use the CORAM project materials to ensure the programme is developmental and appropriate to the needs of the child in each year.

In year 5 and 6 children also have the opportunity to work with Life Skills Primary Education on the Drug, Alcohol and Resilience Training project (previously known as DARE).

Support from visitors

The school appreciates the valuable contribution of outside agencies, but recognises that their contribution 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 audit our staff's needs and confidence in relation to delivering effective and up to date drug education and access training as necessary through the Drug Aware Programme and Local Authority to meet these needs.

Governors will be informed of any drug training through the authorities governor services programme.

Governance

This policy was ratified by governors on 11th December 2024 and will be reviewed in 2 years.