



# **WATCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **Drug Education Policy**

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**This policy was adopted by Governors at the Children & Curriculum Committee meeting on:**

**Spring 2022**

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**Next Review – Spring 2023**

**WATCOMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL  
DRUG EDUCATION POLICY**



This school defines the term "drug" as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

### Values and Aims:

Set in the broader context of relationship, social and health education, our drugs education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and cooperation.

All non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable.

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and well being of the pupils beyond these school boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles. The school recognises that children can experience issues out of school and can come to a member of staff for advice.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is important to recognise that many young people are choosing not to do so. We will support their differing needs.

### Rationale:

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

### We aim to:

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practicing safe skills.
- To help young people to develop a sense of self-awareness and self-esteem.

- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- To help young people distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To counter any inaccurate messages which young people receive about drugs.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- To enable children to identify where help and support can be found.

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- A co-ordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Reinforcements of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special education needs and English as an additional language.
- Integration of drug education into the curriculum.
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents, pupils, and relevant visitors.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for children and committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment and working in partnership with parents' and carers.

Special Educational Needs:

Additional support may be given by staff. Activities may be differentiated.

Teaching - Curriculum, materials and approaches:

Delivery will be:

- Through planned elements of national curriculum subjects and R.E.
- Through discrete RSHE and citizenship time;

- Through pastoral time;
- Through assemblies;
- Through occasional planned and negotiated visits from school nurse, police officer or other appropriate people;
- Through the use of story, circle time and other opportunities.

A wide range of teaching approaches can be used and we particularly encourage active and accelerated learning methods, which involve children's full participation. Ground rules will be negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the individual child and the whole class.

The work will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all involved, including the young people.

### Confidentiality:

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within child protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

### Working with Visitors:

Visitors can make a valuable contribution to drug education provision but do not constitute a comprehensive programme. The rationale for bringing in a visitor must be clear. It must enhance the overall educational experience and must educate rather than sensationalise. It must fit with the stated aims and objectives of school RSHE and drug education policy.

### Roles and Responsibilities:

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

**All staff** should consider themselves as role models whose behaviour the children are likely to notice and often follow. Staff also have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incidents.

**Teaching and support staff** have a responsibility to contribute to the taught curriculum for drug education. They listen to the pupils and determine their specific needs. These needs are

met in specific drug education inputs as well as through a wider programme of personal and social skills development.

**The Headteacher and Senior Management Team (SMT)** have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that policy and practice in this area is followed, including appropriate curriculum content and response to drug related incidents.

#### Medicines in School:

Read the Medicines in School policy.

#### Response to possible drug related incidents:

Our definition of drug includes medicines, alcohol and tobacco it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In the absence of a medical emergency the Headteacher will be informed and an appropriate response considered. The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.

Responses will be cross-referenced with related school policies such as: Behaviour, Health and Safety, Child Protection, School visits.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances we will inform parents or guardians at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and to resolve difficulties. In all circumstances the situation will be logged on CPOMS.

Our aim is to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential. We will work with the pupil, their parents or carers and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement and resolve any difficulties that exist. Drug related situations will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young person's life and not in isolation.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in the school safe until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. S/he will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation.