

Fernwood Primary and Nursery School

Drugs Policy

September 2021



Please read this policy alongside the curriculum for RHSE and the school's Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy.

Introduction

Any 'drugs' which are on the school premises or premises the children are attending are in use formally and with the full agreement of the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School.

These include medication for the children and staff's own medication.

Children's medications are generally kept in the Green Medications Bag in each classroom eg Ventolin Inhaler. Any drugs which are required for an individual pupil with an identified need are kept securely in the school office and administered from there daily.

Staff keep their medications on their person and safely away from the children eg Ventolin Inhalers, paracetamol. Individual members of staff inform the Executive Head Teacher/Head of school if he/she has a medical requirement which means that he/she has to keep and administer more serious medication in school. This is to protect all in the school community including the person themselves.

Smoking

The school site is a non - smoking site. It is not permissible for anyone to smoke on site.

Alcohol

Alcohol is not generally on the premises. The only reasons why alcohol may be on the premises are the following –

- A gift brought in for a member of staff
- A prize at a fundraising event
- A social event at school for staff or parents eg Quiz Night.

Illegal Drugs

Illegal drugs are not permitted on the premises. The site is checked weekly in an attempt to ensure that the site is safe and that if a person or group of people have accessed the site during the evening or weekend any illegal drug debris is removed eg needles or syringes will be stored in a sharps bin or a found substance locked in a cupboard for safekeeping to dispose of later via the police. This is done before children and families arrive on site.

If it is thought that a parent/visitor on the site is under the influence of drugs or alcohol they will be asked to leave. If this involves a child or children being dropped off or picked up alternative

arrangements will be put in place for the child or children and recorded accordingly as a safeguarding concern.

If this happens repeatedly ie one person regularly intoxicated or under the influence of drugs coming onto the site, he/she will be told that he/she is not allowed on site and legal advice will be sought from the Local Authority legal department.

It is recognised that school staff may not be able to identify a substance as a drug and so each step is taken carefully to avoid confirmatory bias and rumour.

If drugs are found on the premises they will be collected safely and the matter will be reported to the police. We shall follow their advice in regard to disposal.

If drugs are found on an adult the police will be informed.

If drugs are found on a child a full safeguarding investigation will follow including communication with parents, informing the police and a referral to Social Care. This is unlikely to result in a school sanction for the child on the **first** occasion as it is unlikely that a primary aged child has a full understanding of what they are doing or why. This also includes sharing drugs with other children. If it is apparent that the child is fully aware of their actions then a school sanction could be put in place.

It is recognised that children are often used as drugs carriers for drug dealers and are manipulated and groomed by adults or older siblings to act as their 'agents'. This situation requires sensitivity and understanding of the vulnerable position the child is in.

All such incidents will be recorded in detail on the electronic safeguarding log including a description of the drug, timing of the incident, individuals involved, the action taken. The Governing Body will be made aware of a drugs related incident; all details of the child will remain anonymous.

If the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School has a strong suspicion that a child is carrying drugs the child will be asked to remove all items from their person and belongings. School staff will only search a child's possessions if absolutely necessary, we will not search a child in person. We will inform the police of a strong suspicion even if we do not have absolute evidence. This is our duty as DSLs in school and finally as a measure to protect the child.

If a child discloses that he/she has been using drugs a similar course of action is followed. All information is recorded, parents are informed, the police are informed and a referral is made to Social Care. At all times the child is treated with care and compassion. The child is a victim, a minor in need of help.

If a child or adult on the premises has taken a drug their safety and well-being is always the first priority.

A drugs related incident remains confidential to those who need to know as is the case with all safeguarding incidents.

To date the school has not had any drugs related incidents linked directly to children.

Mandy Austin

Executive Head Teacher

September 2021