

# Stanley Grove Primary and Nursery School

## Drugs Policy

Revised March 2021



## **Drugs policy Developmental process**

The policy was reviewed in March 2019 in line with the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools published in Sept 2012. The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Standards and Pupils committee of the governors.

The staff and governors were consulted in the writing of the policy.

## **Location and dissemination**

The policy is available to all on the school website and the staff read it every year in line with other safeguarding policies. Parts of the policy may be replicated or referred to in other school publications.

## **The context of the policy and the links with other policies**

This drug policy outlines the schools ethos and protocols regarding drugs and drugs education in school. This policy needs to be read in line with other school policies: safeguarding, child protection, behaviour and discipline, health and safety, medicines, school codes of conduct, school visits and the SEALS/ PSCHE scheme of work.

## **Local and national references**

This policy is written in line with the DfE and APCO drugs advice for schools. The Governments Drug strategy 2017, Keeping Children Safe in Education. The Wakefield Safeguarding Board website is used for local information about useful organisations and places to seek help.

## **The purpose of the policy**

Stanley Grove School has a strong ethos of healthy living and care for ourselves and others. As a result of this, drugs education is an important part of our approach to being healthy and informed about health issues. Drugs education forms part of our RHE scheme of work. It is therefore important that children are equipped with knowledge about substances, which may harm them and staff model exemplary behaviour and attitudes to substance misuse and drugs in line with our code of conduct.

## **State where and to whom the policy applies**

All staff have read and need to adhere to the code of conduct and this policy. This also includes the wider school community such as: pupils, parents/ carers. Governors and partner agencies working with the school.

This policy applies not just to the school boundaries (playground, buildings, field), but also the areas where we take the children on visits including residential. We have a duty of care and must report any concerns or evidence of incidents, outside the school.

## **Definitions and terminology**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime define a drug as: *'a substance people take to change the way they think and behave'*. The DfE guidance for schools on drugs refers to all drugs including medicine, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs. There are also new psychoactive substances and e- cigarettes that are included in this definition.

## **The schools stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils**

Stanley Grove does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug, which takes place within the school boundaries.

Authorised drugs and medication within school is administered in line with the school policy on medicines.

The first concern of all in the school relating to drugs and medicines is the safety and care of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

## **Staff with key responsibilities for drugs issues**

Governors are responsible for ensuring that policy is in place and that procedures are clearly identified and followed. They are responsible for reviewing the policy.

The headteacher is responsible for overseeing and coordinating drug issues. This includes disseminating and implementing the policy; liaising with the appropriate outside agencies /bodies.

The Caretaker is responsible for checking the site for drug related objects and removing them.

## **Staff support and training**

On induction all staff are required to read this policy. Updates about drug awareness is disseminated to appropriate staff when needed.

## **Management of drugs in school and on school trips**

The grounds are checked daily prior to school opening by the caretaker. If any drugs paraphernalia is found by any staff, the caretaker should be sent for to effect its removal. If the caretaker is not available then a senior member of staff should be informed. If the drugs paraphernalia cannot be removed immediately then the area must be made secure and staff should be informed. Children should be encouraged to report any discarded items, including needles to a member of staff. It is necessary to explain why it is important not to touch such items.

Any suspect substances should be given to the headteacher. These should be kept securely. Needles should be contained in a 'sharps' bin. These items should be kept securely in a locked cupboard in the safe if needed for evidence or disposal. The sharps bin is locked in the caretaker's room.

## Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected drugs schools are advised to:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so.
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number
- Inform parent/ carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

## **Searching , screening and confiscation**

On 18 January 2018, the DfE updated the searching, screening and confiscation guidance for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies.

The guidance sets out the power schools have when searching pupils, both with or without consent, and their right to confiscate items found during the searches.

## **Searching**

- **With consent** – school staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees to this. If a pupil refuses to co-operate, the school can apply an appropriate punishment as set out in the school's behaviour policy.

- **Without consent** – only headteachers and school staff (with authorisation from the headteacher) can search a pupil without consent, where there is 'reasonable grounds' to believe the pupil has a prohibited or banned item, such as a knife. The staff member searching must be of the same sex as the pupil and the search must take place in the presence of a witness (the only exception being where there is a risk that serious harm will be caused if a search is not conducted immediately).

## **Confiscation**

Following a consensual search, school staff can use their discretion to confiscate, retain and/or destroy any item found, as long as this is reasonable in the circumstances.

Where a search is conducted without consent and an item is found, staff can seize anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item.

### **General power to confiscate.**

School's general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where a person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs, these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include the new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

## **Informing parents**

Schools do not have to notify parents before a search takes place. There is also no legal requirement to record any searches that have taken place. However, where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, it is good practice to inform the individual's parents or guardians, even though there is no legal duty to do so.

## **School trips**

If drugs or drugs paraphernalia are found in a location then the local staff or police should be informed. If drugs or drugs paraphernalia are found on a pupil then they should be confiscated and the parents and if necessary the police informed.

## **Managing parents/ carers under the influence of drugs on the school premises**

If an adult appears to be under the influence of drugs then a senior member of staff should be sent for.

The member of staff should:

Reassure the adult and ask if any other person could be contacted to give support. If the person is aggressive or abusive and will not leave the premises, then the police should be contacted. Children will not be allowed to go home with anyone who we consider to be under the influence of drugs and not capable of caring for the child.

## **Police involvement**

The police will be contacted if:

A controlled drug is found on the premises or on a member of staff, pupil, parent or visitor

An adult is under the influence of drugs and is aggressive, abusive or refusing to leave the site.

### **The needs of the pupils**

The school has a RHE programme which includes work on the 'use and misuse of substances'. This programme clearly identifies the learning outcomes as appropriate to the children's age and ability. This programme is incorporated into all year plans and is ongoing and continuous.

The safeguarding and child protection policies highlight the mechanisms for addressing wider support for children who may experience drug related incidents. Keeping Ourselves Safe assemblies and lessons also highlight the wider support that children can access including Childline and the NSPCC.

### **Working with external agencies**

The school will follow the safeguarding and child protection policies where applicable to work and liaise with local agencies. Other charitable agencies that can provide help to parents are: [gaspd.org.uk](http://gaspd.org.uk) and FRANK. The Wakefield Safeguarding Board website is also used for information. The Local Authority has support mechanisms to help school with policy, curriculum, procedures and incidents: Drugs Education Officer, Educational Welfare Office and Educational Psychologist.

### **Information sharing**

Information will be shared with other parties in line with the Safeguarding, data protection and child protection policies.

### **Involvement of parents/ carers**

Parents will be informed by a senior member of staff of incidents concerning substance abuse involving their child, unless it is deemed not safe to do so, under safeguarding procedures. Further action ie: sanctions, involvement of other agencies will be determined by the nature and severity of each individual case.

### **The role of governors**

All the governors are involved in the development and the adopting of the school's drug policy and the PSICHE scheme of work, which includes drug education on recommendations provided by the Standards and Pupils committee.

### **Liaison with other schools**

Liaison with other schools for transition and sharing of information is detailed in our GDPR policy.

### **Staff conduct and drugs.**

All staff are expected to adhere to the school's code of conduct. Smoking, including e-cigarettes is not permitted on the school site, and staff are not permitted to smoke in sight of the school. Alcohol must not be consumed on the school site. If it is considered that the influence of any drug taking (see definition of drug) is interfering with a member of staff's work or their role within the school, then disciplinary procedures would be initiated, following the relevant policy.