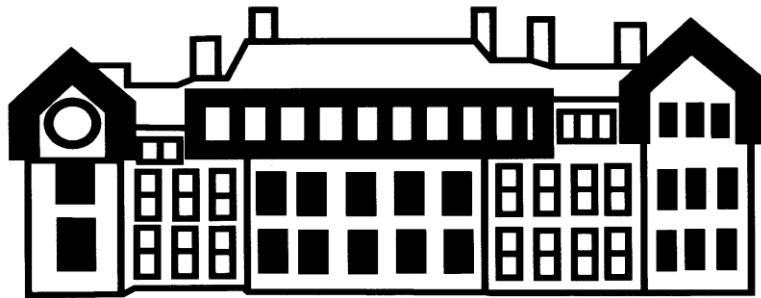


GORDON



SCHOOL

Drug Education Policy

Gordon Primary School is a **welcoming**, **safe** and **inclusive** place **where everyone belongs**. We all show respect for each other. We are:



safe



kind



inclusive

Everyone benefits from a positive school culture, and **everyone has their part to play** - thank you for playing yours.

Drug Education Policy

Please see related school policies (Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Behaviour Policy, Health and Safety Policy, and PSHE Policy) for further details.

1. Aim of this Policy

Gordon Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff, volunteers, and visitors to share this commitment.

National research demonstrates that primary-aged pupils are increasingly exposed to information and opportunities involving both legal and illegal substances. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate or shaped by media and peer influences.

In line with Department for Education (DfE) guidance - including *Searching, Screening and Confiscation*, statutory *Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE)*, and *Drug Advice for Schools* (DfE/ACPO) - this school plays a vital role in educating pupils about the risks associated with substance misuse and maintaining a safe environment.

Drug education at Gordon Primary School aims to:

- Increase pupil awareness of the health and social risks related to substance misuse.
- Reduce the acceptability and appeal of drug and alcohol misuse among young people.
- Build pupils' personal resilience, confidence and refusal skills to manage peer pressure.

We are committed to providing:

- Accurate, age-appropriate information delivered clearly and simply.
- Informative, accessible learning materials.
- A safe, supportive environment where pupils can explore questions and correct misconceptions without fear of judgment.

2. Objectives

We aim to:

- Develop children's personal and social skills, including critical thinking, decision-making and refusal strategies.
- Encourage pupils to take age-appropriate responsibility for their health, safety and actions.
- Promote self-worth, mutual respect and peer support.
- Use active learning and group work to clarify existing knowledge and correct false beliefs or myths surrounding drugs.
- Help children critically evaluate media depictions of alcohol, tobacco, vaping and drugs.
- Provide clear staff guidance for managing drug-related queries, incidents and reporting procedures.

- Ensure pupils understand the distinction between legal and illegal substances, including over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- Equip pupils with practical skills to resist unwanted peer pressure or risky offers.

3. Definition of 'Drugs'

At Gordon Primary School, 'drugs' are defined as any substance that affects the way the body or mind functions. This includes both legally permitted and restricted/illegal substances:

- **Nicotine and vaping:** tobacco, vapes/e-cigarettes, and related liquids or cartridges (whether containing nicotine or non-nicotine fluids).
- **Alcohol.**
- **Medicines:** prescription and over-the-counter medications (including misusing medication prescribed for someone else).
- **Volatile substances:** solvents, glues, gases and aerosols.
- **Illegal substances:** controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (e.g., cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, etc.)
- **Psychoactive substances:** novel psychoactive substances (formerly referred to as 'legal highs').

4. Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher

- Ensures liaison with the Local Authority, public health bodies and local emergency services so the policy reflects current legal guidance and best practice.
- Ensures staff, parents and carers are informed of this policy and that it is implemented consistently.
- Facilitates appropriate staff training on substance education and handling sensitive disclosures.
- Oversees the monitoring of this policy and reports periodically to the Governing Body.

The Governing Body

- Supports the Headteacher in implementing and reviewing this policy.
- Ensures the policy aligns with statutory safeguarding guidelines.

Parents and Carers

We seek a collaborative partnership by:

- Making this policy easily accessible to all parents and carers.
- Sharing information about the PSHE and Science curriculum content.
- Addressing parental queries or concerns promptly and openly.
- Encouraging parental feedback during policy review cycles.

5. Curriculum Delivery

Drug education is delivered primarily through the planned PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum, supplemented by statutory Science units.

In line with National Curriculum science requirements:

- **Key Stage 1:** Pupils learn about the role of medicines and keeping healthy.
- **Key Stage 2:** Pupils learn about the effects of tobacco, alcohol, vapes, and other drugs on the human body.

6. Cross-Curricular Links

While Science and PSHE provide the formal framework, drug education connects to Physical Education (healthy lifestyles), Computing (online influences and media literacy), and the broader Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural (SMSC) development of all pupils.

7. Teaching Approaches

Our approach is preventive, balanced and age-appropriate. Teaching methods include:

- Interactive group tasks and class discussions.
- Age-appropriate videos, stories and scenario-based learning.
- Visiting specialist speakers (e.g., local emergency services or health professionals) where appropriate.
- Reinforcing positive messages around healthy choices, personal safety and self-esteem.

8. External Visitors

Where external contributors support the drug education programme:

- Their input will be planned in advance alongside the PSHE Lead or Headteacher.
- Parents and carers will be informed prior to the visit.
- Sessions must align with the school's values and policy.
- A qualified teacher will remain present throughout the session and manage classroom discipline.
- The content and impact of the session will be evaluated afterward.

9. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

The safety, health and safeguarding of pupils and staff are paramount in any incident.

Substance Rules on Site

- No person (staff, pupil, parent/carers or visitor) may be under the influence of illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or alcohol while on school premises or during school trips.

- Prescription medications required during the school day must be managed strictly in accordance with the school's *Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy*.

Medical Emergencies

If a pupil or adult is suspected of being unwell due to substance exposure or ingestion:

1. Treat the situation immediately as a medical emergency (apply First Aid and call 999 if required).
2. Contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
3. Contact parents/carers as soon as safely possible.

Parental/Carer Capacity at Collection

If a parent or carer attending school premises to collect a child appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol and staff believe the child's safety is compromised:

- The school will not release the child to that individual.
- Staff will attempt to contact an authorised alternative emergency contact.
- If necessary, staff will contact Children's Social Care or the Police in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Found Paraphernalia or Unidentified Substances

- Suspected illegal substances or dangerous paraphernalia found on site should be reported immediately to the Headteacher/DSL.
- Sharps (e.g., needles) must not be handled directly; the area must be secured until safe disposal equipment is used.
- Any suspected illegal substances will be secured safely and surrendered to the police for identification and safe disposal.

Support and Safeguarding

Pupils affected by their own or a family member's substance use will be offered targeted support. Referrals to Family and Adolescent Support Service (FaASS), external pastoral services or Children's Social Care will be made via the DSL in accordance with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

10. Searching, Confiscation and Legal Powers

In accordance with DfE guidance (*Searching, Screening and Confiscation*):

- **Confiscation:** Members of staff have the legal power to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property (including vapes, tobacco, alcohol, prescription drugs or illegal substances) where reasonable to maintain discipline and safety.
- **Searching:** The Headteacher and authorised staff have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions without consent if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item (including alcohol, illegal drugs, or items harmful to good order).
- Unidentified or suspected controlled substances will be safely secured and handed to the police.

11. Parental Involvement and Complaints

While schools are not legally required to inform parents before a search takes place, the school will normally notify parents/carers if alcohol, vapes or suspected illegal substances are found on their child.

Any complaints regarding the handling of a drug-related incident or search should follow the standard School Complaints Policy.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored by the PSHE and Science Subject Leaders and the Headteacher. It will be reviewed every three years (or sooner if statutory guidance or local safeguarding procedures change) and approved by the Governing Body.

Ratification date: October 2026

Review date: October 2029

Agreed: Jason Taylor (Headteacher)

Agreed: Lynsey Christini-Clay (Chair of Governors)