



# SHIPTON BELLINGER PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

**Autumn 2024**

This policy has been developed in consultation with staff, governors, parents and children and with reference to 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

It relates to the Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE) policy, behaviour policy, confidentiality policy and health and safety policy and encompasses the schools drive to ensure children and families adopt healthy lifestyles.

### *Definition*

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our bodies work.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. In line with both national advice and local guidelines, it covers drugs misuse by pupils and adults.

### *Aims*

- To help children live a healthy life style now and in the future
- To enable children to make healthy informed choices

### *Objectives*

- To provide opportunities for children to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of substance and drug misuse
- To develop and equip children with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to avoid peer group pressures
- To enable those who have concerns to ask for help
- To enhance childrens' decision making skills
- To build childrens' self esteem

### *Delivery*

Shipton Bellinger Primary School uses the Hampshire Primary Drug Planning Materials to deliver the teaching of drug education, as outlined in the school long term RHSE plans. At Key Stage 1, the focus is on the beneficial uses of drugs and medicines, the safety rules for their use and the need for them. At Key Stage 2, this knowledge is built upon; outlining the differences between legal and illegal substances and sensitively introducing children to the harmful effects which the misuse of drugs related substances can have. At this stage we also try to make them aware of the social pressures which may be put upon them.

The two important aspects of drug education we cover can be summarised as follows:

### *Knowledge*

- The role of drugs as medicines
- That tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs can have harmful effects

### *Life Skills*

- Build self esteem
- Learn to be a decision maker
- Take responsibility
- Become assertive
- Deal with peer group pressure
- Develop the skills of independent thinking
- Develop attitudes towards drugs which are based upon facts

A range of teaching strategies are used; including role-play, discussion group work, debate and circle time.

Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the school nurse, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

### *Statutory Duty of School*

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

### *Implementation Pupil incidents*

The Head Teacher will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

Any member of staff who suspects a pupil of being involved in a drugs-related incident must report the matter immediately to the Headteacher, who will deal with it in a sensitive and appropriate manner, involving parents at the earliest opportunity.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted, as a final sanction, when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

#### *Intoxicated Parents/carers on school premises*

When dealing with intoxicated parents/carers, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasions, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent/carer's behaviour. Child protection and safeguarding procedures should be followed, in line with the school's Child protection policy.

#### *Media Involvement*

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media. The school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

#### *Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation And Review*

The delivery of the drug teaching programme, as part of the RHSE scheme of work will be monitored and reviewed by the RHSE Leader and the Head Teacher. The Governing Body will review this policy every 3 years and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.