

NETHERTON J & I SCHOOL

DRUG
EDUCATION
POLICY

OCTOBER 2025

POLICY FOR DRUG EDUCATION

This policy was written in collaboration with staff and governors at Netherton J & I School. It will be reviewed within a two-year timescale. All staff including TSAs and governors have access to the policy.

What do we mean by the term drugs?

We live in a drug taking society. This includes legal (tobacco and alcohol) as well as illegal drugs, (heroin, cocaine) volatile substances (aerosols, glues and gases) as well as over the counter and prescribed medicines.

What do we mean by drug education?

Drug education is essentially about equipping pupils with the necessary skills and knowledge about substances that may harm them. Through exploration of issues and attitudes, pupils are encouraged to develop their abilities to make informed choices.

Aims

In our drug education programme we aim:

- ❖ To develop skills in making choices
- ❖ To develop the confidence to make those choices
- ❖ To encourage a personal and social awareness
- ❖ To learn to keep themselves and others safe
- ❖ To lead healthy lifestyles.

This is part of a whole school approach which promotes the physical, personal and social development of both pupils and staff within the school. The main emphasis should be that pupils are aware of how to keep safe in a society where drugs are available.

Delivery of Drug Education

The non-statutory guidance for PSHE and Citizenship outlines specifically how pupils should be taught:

- At KS1 – that all household products, including medicines can be harmful if not used properly
- At KS2 – which commonly available substances and drugs are legal/illegal, their effects and risks; and that pressure to behave in an unacceptable way can come from a variety of sources, how to ask for help and the basic technique for resisting pressure to do wrong.

Management of a drug related incident

Drug related incidents might be connected with pupils themselves, with their parents or carers, with staff or with some other person. The drug use that is of concern may take place within the establishment, in the immediate vicinity of the school buildings, or in another setting where it may be having an impact on the pupils for whom the school is responsible.

A drug related incident may include:-

- finding of sharps or other drug related paraphernalia
- a pupil bringing substances into school
- dealing
- disclosure
- a parent using substances.

Guidelines for dealing with incidents involving drugs – see Flow chart Appendix A.

Confidentiality

Our school has the best interest of the pupil concerned in mind when we deal with a drug related incident.

In the case of disclosure it will be made clear to the pupil by staff that absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. Each situation will be judged on its own merit, taking into account, the age of the pupil, their competence to understand the circumstances etc.

Breach of confidence is justified when:

- there is a child protection issue
- the life of a person is at risk.

Information, which is disclosed when breaching confidentiality, is only that which is relevant to the person involved. If the pupil has disclosed an offence, which could relate in further action, the Police can ask for and expect that information (Section 115 Data Protection Act).

When a member of staff is unsure how to react to a disclosure, then they will consult with the Drug Education Co-ordinator. The Drug Education Co-ordinator is Mrs S Goodrum.

Working with outside agencies

As part of the community the school has many formal and informal links within the community. These links should be developed to ensure consistency. Outside speakers should be used to support and enhance the teaching programme and not to substitute it.

Guidance for the safe handling of sharps

If items are found which are considered to be potentially dangerous such as glue bottles, coke cans for inhalation, syringes etc. they are to be removed with due care by a member of staff. The offending items are placed in the Sharps Box located in the Caretakers Room. The Drug Education Officer, who is made aware, will then inform how to dispose of the items appropriately. See appendices A and B.

Administration of medication to pupils

Many pupils will need to take medication at school at some time and mostly this will be for a short period only. (See Medicines Policy)

- Medication should only be taken to school when absolutely necessary – where it has been prescribed by a doctor needing 4 or more doses a day.
- All prescribed medicine will be given by the School Senior Administrator, or in his/her absence, by the Headteacher, deputy Headteacher or any other designated members of staff eg. TSA /SNA
- No child will be given medication without parental consent
- All medication should be checked for:
 - a) pupil name
 - b) instructions, including dosage
 - c) expiry date
 - d) signature of consent
- A record will be kept of medicines administered to the children in school by the delegated staff
- In the event of a school trip, school will encourage pupils with medical needs to participate, wherever safety permits
- Staff supervising the visit will be made aware of any medical needs
- A named member of staff will be responsible for the child requiring additional support
- Teachers supervising PE and other sporting activities will be made aware of the relevant medical conditions and emergency procedures required by the child

Storing medication

- The container should be clearly labelled with:
 - a) the name of the pupil
 - b) name and dose of the drug
 - c) frequency of administration
- All medicines (with the exception of inhalers, which are to be kept in a safe place accessible to the child in question) will be kept in a secure place which is not accessible to pupils

- Any medicine which needs to be stored in a fridge will be clearly marked and in an airtight container
- Parents are responsible for the disposal of date expired medicines
- Parents should ensure that all medicines are collected from school daily
Parents will be notified of medicines left on the premises
- Protective disposable gloves are available in both the staff room first aid kit and the main office and these must be worn when dealing with spillages of blood or other fluids
- All contaminated items must be polythene bagged and disposed of. (See DCSF HIV and AIDS)

The role of the Headteacher and the Governing body.

The Headteacher takes responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA.

The Governing Body will be involved with substance related incidents.

The policy will be discussed, monitored and reviewed by the Headteacher, staff and Governors every two years.

Staff using substances

Headteacher must be informed. The matter will be dealt with according to circumstances.

Appendices

A: What to do in a drug related incident.

B: Drug related incident record sheet