



DRUG EDUCATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS POLICY

This Policy was approved by Governors on:	April 2026
This Policy was shared with staff in:	April 2026
Implementation of this Policy will be monitored by:	Head of Pastoral Care, SLT and Head Teacher
Monitoring will take place at regular intervals	
The Policy will be reviewed annually or more regularly if needed.	
Policy Review Date:	October 2025
Date of next Review:	October 2027

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy sets out the school's approach to drug education and how the school will respond to drug related incidents within the responsibilities of the school. This policy has links with the following school policies: PSHE, Health and Safety, The Administration of Medicines and Confidentiality.

To whom does the policy apply?

This policy applies to all of the following people when they are on the school premises: pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors. Breaches of this policy by any of those mentioned will be dealt with by the Head teacher/Governing body. This policy also applies to pupils and staff when off-site when staff act in loco parentis, this includes all educational visits. Although the school is not responsible for pupils travelling to and from school we will work with parents and / or other agencies should any problems be identified. The school is responsible for pupils during break and lunchtimes and this policy applies during these times. It also affects the use of school premises after normal school hours. Organisers of any after school events should be made aware of the policy and their responsibility to implement it.

Definition of a drug

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug will apply: "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave." This broad definition allows for the inclusion of all medication, legal/illegal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco), volatile substances (see also the school's Health and Safety Policy and COSHH Policy) and all over the counter and prescription medicines.

OVERALL AIMS OF THE POLICY

- To provide a framework for effective drug education;
- To provide systems for dealing with drug related incidents within the school environment;
- To ensure that the school's drug education programme reflects the aims and values of the school and its Governing Body.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Governors

As part of their responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors have agreed to this policy. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of it.

Head Teacher

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug related incident. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from relevant agencies such as ESWs, Child Protection Officers, and police.

Parents and Carers

Parents and carers are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme. They are responsible for ensuring that guidelines relating to medication in school are followed (see Administration of Medicines Policy). Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child. This can be a very sensitive issue for parents, and therefore, it will be handled with care and consideration. The Head Teacher will consider if there are any special circumstances, which may temper this right. The child protection service may be contacted in the first instance and advice sought (see school's Safeguarding Children policy/procedures).

All Staff

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they be called upon to deal with a drug related incident. This includes lunchtime supervisors and the site manager and cleaning staff. If they have any queries or training requirements these should be made known to SLT. The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any substances or drug paraphernalia found will be recorded and reported to the Head Teacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy.

WHAT DRUG AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION LOOKS LIKE AT POVEREST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated within a planned statutory Science and PSHE curriculum (see school website),

- At Key Stage 1: 5 - 7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.
- At Key Stage 2: 7 - 11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

The aim of teaching children and young people about alcohol and other drugs is to support them in making informed choices, delaying first substance use and preventing the development of harmful patterns of substance use in adulthood. This can impact upon an individual's quality of life and future aspirations. Effective teaching about alcohol and other drugs through PSHE and Science education is one key element of prevention work. However, in order to achieve its aims, this teaching should be implemented as one aspect of a wider whole-school approach.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children registered as having Special Educational Needs have the same right to a good drug education as any other child and will be taught alongside all other pupils. However, teachers will use the adaptations suggested in the Kapow schemes of work where relevant.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We recognise the achievement of girls and boys and this is reflected in our Equal Opportunities Policy.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

We adhere to and have due regard for the school's Health and Safety Policy.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS

THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS FOR MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

On occasion a child may need to take medication whilst at school. Any individually prescribed medication should be given to the school office with a full completed and signed authorisation by the parent. The school will not administer medication without authorisation. For children who need asthma inhalers, these are easily accessible at all times.

GUIDANCE ON MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary school are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. Poverest Primary School has identified a drug related incident as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- Pupil/Staff member is found in possession of drugs
- Pupil/Staff member is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- Pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs

In all cases the headteacher and safeguarding leads should be informed immediately.

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

CONFISCATING AN ILLEGAL DRUG AND ITS DISPOSAL

School staff will not attempt to analyse any unidentified drugs, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any staff undertake an intimate physical search. If the child refuses, the headteacher may decide to contact parents and/or the Police. We will always inform parents if the police are to be called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our children, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously overreact and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies in order to safeguard.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will either be destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible. We will always ensure that a witness is present when disposing of any drugs. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues. We will then keep a record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking or vaping is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds. Any disregard for school restrictions will be treated as any other breach of school discipline.

SANCTIONS

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a child following any drug related incidents and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account. Our Code of Conduct has clear sanctions for breaking school rules and a variety of consequences are possible.