

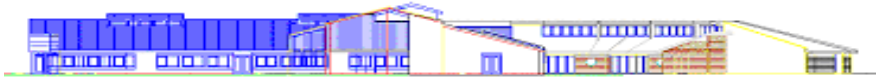
# **Redhill Primary School**

## **Drugs Policy**

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Jenkins'.

**Mr Adrian Jenkins, Chair of Governors**



## **Schools Drug Policy**

Redhill Primary School

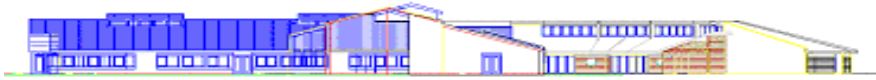
### **1.0 Introduction**

For the purposes of this policy the term drug(s) includes tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and over the counter or prescription drugs. This policy applies to the following: the school premises during the school day and supervised school visits. This also includes other times when the school is open e.g. After School Club, Lettings, social events, parent's evenings etc...

Drug use can adversely affect the development of children and young people, with effects directly and indirectly on individual mental and physical health, educational achievement, on family and the general public. Recognising the developmental needs of children and young people, promoting social and emotional health and the reduction of harm must be the priority

Schools, along side parents/carers and a range of agencies have an important role to play in the delivery of the National Drugs Strategy to reduce the harm that drugs cause to society.

- 1.1 The governors and staff of Redhill Primary School fully recognise need to address the issue of drug use amongst young people in schools. It is recognised that all staff, including volunteers, have a part to play in protecting our pupils from harm caused by drug use.
- 1.2 All staff and Governors believe that our school should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical and moral development of the individual child.
- 1.3 The aims of this policy are:
  - 1.3.1 To set out the Schools position on the use of drugs in school.
  - 1.3.2 To set out the school's approach to pupils who it considers may be misusing drugs outside school.
  - 1.3.3 To raise the awareness of both teaching and non-teaching staff of the need to safeguard children against the problems of drug use and of their responsibilities in identifying and reporting incidents in line with National Guidelines.
  - 1.3.4 To emphasise the need for good levels of communication between all members of staff.



1.3.5 To develop a structured procedure within the school, to be followed by all members of the school community in cases of suspected involvement.

1.3.6 To develop and promote effective working relationships with other agencies.

## **2.0 School Position on Substance Misuse in School**

2.1 No drug will be brought into school or to School premises. The school will adopt a “zero tolerance” to the use of drugs on school premises. The only exception to this is that prescribed medication and over the counter preparations may be brought in to school but the parent must inform a teacher immediately.

2.2 All incidents involving drugs will be treated as very serious. These will be thoroughly investigated by members of the School Management Team. The Police may be informed in incidents of drug use; the Police will always be informed in incidents where selling drugs is suspected.

2.3 Parents/carers will be informed in every event.

2.4 School will follow Drug Use Support Procedure every event.

## **3.0 Procedures**

3.1 School procedures for safeguarding children against drug use will be in line with Drugs: “Guidance for Schools” (DfES)

3.1.1 All members of staff develop their understanding of the signs and indicators of drug misuse.

3.1.2 All members of staff know how to respond to a pupil who discloses drug use.

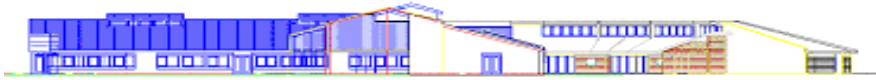
3.1.3 The School Drug Use Support Procedure will be regularly reviewed and up-dated.

3.1.4 All new members of staff will be given a copy of this Drug Use Policy and the implementation procedures for this school.

## **4.0 Responsibilities**

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

The Headteacher works closely with The Senior Management team who have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.



The Headteacher and the senior management team will have received training and will keep the contents of the LA 'Drugs & Schools' guidance updated, last issued September 2000, and make this available to staff.

#### 4.2 The staff

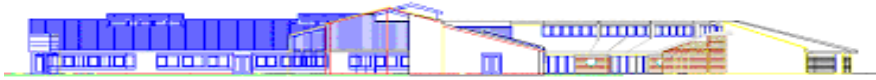
All staff, including the site manager, supply teachers and visiting professionals who support smoking and/or drug education (e.g. police officer, school nurse) and those supporting school visits, are informed about this policy: how to report their concerns, suspicions and how to receive, record and report disclosures, how to handle substances and drug paraphernalia safely and legally:

- during their first induction to the school  Yes
- through a copy of this policy  Yes
- through the staff handbook  Yes
- through the induction/supply teachers' booklet  Yes
- through the school's PSHE/drug education policy  Yes

### 5.0 **Response in Schools**

#### 5.1 In an emergency, follow its already established procedures.

- Report to the SMT/ Headteacher whose prime consideration is to act in the best interests of the pupil. The behaviour of pupils as a result of substance misuse is varied, the situation needs to be assessed carefully. The school will seek to balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved, the other school members and the local community.
- Action which best supports the pupil will be taken in line with 'Drugs & Schools' Section 2: Managing incidents.
- The situation will be assessed and parents informed as appropriate. Where a pupil is considered to be at risk, the school will comply with the Shropshire Area Child Protection Committee's Procedures.
- Appropriate support will be provided. This might include agreeing a pastoral support programme, providing access to counselling, taking disciplinary action from a range of sanctions in line with the behaviour policy and with DfEE Circular 10/99 Social Inclusion: Pupil Support (p. 33 para 6.9).
- Any substances or drug paraphernalia such as discarded syringes will be handled and disposed of safely and with due regard to the Law.
- The school uses: glass screw top bottle so object can be seen - liaise with local GP for disposal of sharps. Everyone knows what to do if a needle/syringe is found on the site? (See Drugs & Schools, Section 2: p. 10).
- Pupils are taught what to do in such circumstances: during PSHE they are told that they must not touch needles/syringes or broken bottles/ cans they find, but should inform a member of staff.
- The Headteacher will usually inform the police when illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on premises although there is no legal obligation to do



this, and, with advice from the Council, will handle any media involvement.

- Parents/carers presenting with problems will be dealt with sensitively, with due regard to the children's, the staff and the parents'/carers' safety. "The use of drugs or other substances by parents or carers does not in itself indicate child neglect or abuse, and there is no assumption that children living in such circumstances will automatically be covered under the child protection procedures." (Shropshire ACPC procedures, June 1996)

## 5.2 **Immediate response to the pupil**

- When talking with any pupil(s) about a drug related incident, the member of staff needs to be aware that the purpose of this is to confirm or refute suspicions or allegations sufficient to decide on further action, not to carry out a 'police' investigation. (*Drugs & Schools: Section 2, page 4*)
- Don't promise confidentiality. It is important that staff don't make promises they cannot keep. If disclosure to the Headteacher or parent is considered necessary, staff will work with a pupil as appropriate, to help the pupil see the value of this and to agree to it.

## 5.3 **Recording information**

- Drug related incidents are recorded by Headteacher/ SMT on the incident forms photocopied from 'Drugs & Schools', Section 2. The school is required, for monitoring purposes, to inform Governors and the LEA of any drug related exclusions. The school uses the 'Drugs & Schools' collating form to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of its policy and practice. This is reviewed by Health & Safety Committee.
- If a pupil is considered to be at risk, it is important to pass the original notes to the designated teacher for child protection.

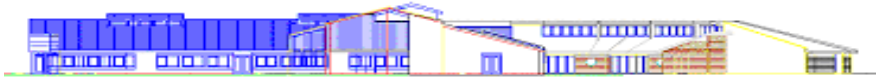
## 6.0 **Curriculum**

Drug education is taught in Key stages 1 as part of PSHE and Science. The programmes are planned and taught in line with the National Curriculum 2000 Framework for Primary Schools. (See separate PSHE and science policies) Could add to the KS1 information the block of work called 'just one spoonful where the children learn about the importance and dangers of medicine

In Key stage Two, children learn about drugs through various curriculum subjects. Science lessons teach and promote healthy living by allowing the children to learn about the effects drugs can have on your body. A block of learning called 'Keeping Healthy' enables the children to find out about positive and negative effects on the body. In year 6 the children take part in a programme called 'STAR'. This programme is taught by our community Support Officer and aims to increase the children's awareness of drugs and also peer pressure

## 7.0 **Alcohol, tobacco and solvents**

- Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters, or alcohol or solvents. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school



premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. ('Drugs & Schools' Section 5: p 2-3)

- No licence is needed by the school to offer alcohol at school events or to store alcohol on the premises. If alcohol is to be sold on the premises, an occasional licence or special permission will be obtained in accordance with the law. ('Drugs & Schools' Section 5: p 2)

## **8.0 Disclosure**

We recognise that children cannot be expected to raise concerns in an environment where staff fail to do so.

All staff should be aware of their duty to raise concerns, where they have a suspicion of drug use.

## **9.0 Supporting Children**

9.1 We recognise that the school may provide stability in the lives of vulnerable children who may, because of their home situation, be more likely to be drawn to using drugs.

9.2 Our school will support all pupils by:

9.2.1 Encouraging self-esteem and self-confidence.

9.2.2 Promoting a caring, safe and positive environment within the school and when under our care out of school.

9.2.3 Having a stand alone policy on bullying to compliment all other policies on child protection.

## **10.0 Confidentiality**

10.1 The Headteacher or Designated Person will disclose any information about a pupil to other members of staff on a need to know basis only.

10.2 All staff must be aware that they have a professional responsibility to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children.

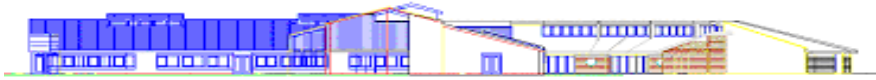
10.3 All staff must be aware that they cannot promise a child to keep secrets.

## **11.0 Prevention**

11.1 We recognise that the school plays a significant part in the prevention of harm to our pupils by providing pupils with good lines of communication with trusted adults, supportive friends and an ethos of protection.

11.2 The school community will therefore:

11.2.1 Establish and maintain an ethos where children and young people feel secure and are encouraged to talk and are always listened to.



11.2.2 Ensure that all children and young people know there is an adult in the school whom they can approach if they are worried or in difficulty.

11.2.3 Include in the curriculum opportunities for PSHE which equip Children and young people with the skills they need to stay safe from drug use and to whom they should turn for help.

## **12.0 Further Assistance**

12.1 For further assistance, please contact:

➤ Wendy Condlyffe-Phipps  
Substance Misuse Coordinator

Tel: 01952 382144

➤ Martin Woodall  
Revolution Manager  
Substance Misuse Services for Young People  
Tel : 01952 385188

➤ Mark Turner  
Principal Officer Child Protection (Schools & Early Years)  
Tel: 01952 385695