

Monkfrith Primary School

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy



Monkfrith School, recognises the harm that all drugs can have, be they illegal (cocaine, cannabis, heroin etc), legal (alcohol, cigarettes and solvents) or medicines. We aim, through this policy, and its guidelines to provide clear and consistent procedures, which promote safety and good management.

Definition of Terminology

The following terms are used in this policy in relation to drugs:

- **a drug** is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave
- the term **drugs** is used to refer to all drugs including;
 - illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), for example cocaine, cannabis, heroine, new psychoactive substances - 'legal highs';
 - legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances; and
 - all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- **drug use** is drug taking, for example consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs
- **drug misuse** is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

Appendix A provides further definitions of specific drugs and a list of support agencies.

Staff responsible for these issues

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services.

The PSHE Lead and Curriculum Leader are responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff and liaising with any external agencies to support the curriculum.

Links to other School Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

PSHE Policy (*Statutory Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Education within Health Education Curriculum*)

Aims

Monkfrith School exists to provide the focus for our children to develop to their full potential, both as individuals and as members of the school and wider community in a secure, caring and happy environment. Children, parents, school staff and governors work in partnership for the benefit of all. As a school, we seek continually to enrich the lives of those entrusted to our care through a broad and balanced curriculum, designed to meet the needs of each child, enabling them to acquire the skills, attitudes and values necessary for life.

In accordance with these values, this policy aims to set out the school's approach to teaching and learning about drugs, smoking & alcohol and Monkfrith School's management of situations involving drugs. We follow the law around smoking, illegal drugs and alcohol.

Healthy Schools London suggest that all schools should have an up to date policy which is part of being a healthy school.

Although it is highly unlikely that illegal drugs will be in our primary school, we believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well being and academic

achievement. We therefore have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe. Through this policy we aim to give a clear message to all parents, staff and visitors about using the school site and our approach to smoking, alcohol and drugs.

Compliance with National Guidance and Links with Statutory Curriculum Requirements

Our policy and procedures for managing drug related incidents have been developed in accordance with the departmental advice from the DfE and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools> along with the additional DfE Guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf

As such, we consider all situations individually and recognise a variety of actions that may be necessary to respond to drug related incidents, as recommended by this non-statutory guidance for schools.

This policy is further informed by:

- The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Control of Substances Hazardous to health Regulations (COSHH)
- DFE – Drugs guidance for schools 2004
- Links to the UN Rights of the Child: Article 33: Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.
 - o Article 6: Every child has the right to life. Governments must do all they can to make sure that children survive and develop to their full potential.
 - o Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

We also acknowledge the essential link between managing drug related incidents and our role in providing a broad, balanced and accurate Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education (DATE) curriculum for all our students. We achieve this through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education), within our statutory Health Education focus on DATE which is in line with the [DfE Statutory Guidance for Relationships and Sex and Health Education \(2020\)](#).

Our DATE aims to enable students to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists, by making informed choices. In order for them to do so, they need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects. We further explore attitudes about drugs and provide opportunities for students to develop skills to manage themselves in various situations, whilst recognising their responsibilities for managing their own behaviour.

Please refer to our PSHE policy for more detail.

Management of Authorised Legal Drugs in School

The school has agreed that there are circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

(i) Medicines

The approach to access and administration of medicines is set out in the school's Administering Medicines Policy. The principles underlying this are to:

- Recognise individual medical needs and promote inclusion to provide an education for all pupils, supporting their medical needs.
- Undertake to contact parents/carers if a pupil is ill during the school day.

In most cases, staff do not administer medicines at school to pupils unless it would be detrimental to health or attendance not to administer and only with parental written consent. The decision to allow pupils to self-administer medicines rests with the Headteacher

Asthma inhalers are kept in the pupil's classroom with written parental consent, they are kept secure with safe and easy access for school staff authorised to administer. Children's personal inhalers are taken on all off-site visits and held by the accompanying school staff.

Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.

The School Nurse (allocated to us by Barnet) will be informed of any children attending the school with medical conditions. Advice will be sought on ensuring they have an appropriate care plan and that school staff are trained to administer any medication required for the day to day management of their condition in school or during a medical emergency.

(ii) Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals e.g. for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy. In the event of a child or adult whom is required to use medical sharps to address the management of their health condition (e.g. insulin or gluco blood testing) a medical sharps disposal bin will be provided. Advice will be sought from the School Nurse regarding the management of the sharps and sharps bin on the school site.

Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or pupils are stored securely in the appropriate area and managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use.

(iii) Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent's events (with the appropriate license) and staff social events.

Staff and parents should not bring alcohol on to the school site other than on a pre-approved basis.

Any member of staff who appears to be under the influence of drink (or other illegal drugs), which prevents them from fulfilling their duties, will be asked to leave the premises immediately. Where necessary disciplinary procedures will begin.

(iv) Smoking

Since July 2007 it has been illegal to smoke in any enclosed or substantially enclosed public place that is open to the public.

In line with Barnet policy, we are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises. The school site is defined as anywhere within the school boundary.

Any staff members who smoke are required to leave the site when doing so. Smoking breaks are only taken as part of official breaks and not as additional breaks.

We strongly request that staff, parents etc. do NOT smoke by the school entrance gates.

All visitors, contractors, volunteers and delivery staff are required to abide by this policy.

E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers)

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we are following Barnet's approach and not allowing the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises and strongly discourage parents using them when collecting their children from school.

Management of Drug Related Incidents

In response to drugs related incidents, it is essential that each situation is considered individually and that the needs and circumstances of the students are paramount.

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In the absence of a medical emergency the Head Teacher and Safeguarding Lead will be informed and an appropriate response considered.

Protocols for responding to any drugs related incident will be in line with the ACPO and DfE guidance.

Unless there are exceptional circumstances we will inform parents /carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the student and to resolve difficulties.

Our aim is to enable all students to fulfil their potential. We will work with the student, their parents or carers and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement and resolve any difficulties that exist. Drug related situations will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young person's life and not in isolation. We accept that it is never appropriate to respond in a way that is more punitive than that which might be considered by the police so that exclusion, whilst it remains an option, will be used as the very last resort. Opportunities for supporting students following these situations include:

- Review with parents/carers after the incident
- Further drugs, alcohol and tobacco education
- Targeted support on a one to one basis
- Referral to an outside agency

If a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use. In these situations, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Deputy should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found. The Designated teacher will be informed and we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

We have a range of professional colleagues who can give or obtain advice and support in drug or alcohol related situations. These include the School's Early help team, the local Police Liaison Team, members of the local Youth Offending Team (whose roles include supporting young people at risk of offending), and our local Drug and Alcohol agencies. These colleagues can help with a needs assessment and support us in developing an appropriate response. The pupils/s will always be told when information is being passed on, in accordance with the school's policy on confidentiality. Appendix B provides a list of further support agencies.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in the school safe until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. S/he will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. The Local Authority School Drug Adviser and Drug & Alcohol Action Team are also able to provide guidance and advice.

All staff will be made aware of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the co-ordinator.

Recording any drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded on CPOMS which alerts the Designated Safeguarding lead/Deputy and kept confidentially.

In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.

It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Confidentiality and child protection

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE curriculum. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Head teacher.

It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the Designated teacher for Safeguarding will be involved. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the child at risk and in these cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher in liaison with external agencies if appropriate with the child's welfare a priority.

Staff matters including training

All staff are expected to work within the agreed policy, their own professional and employment terms and conditions and the Monkfrith Staff Code of Conduct.

We take advantage of the support, advice and training provided by Barnet Improvement and other local organisations. The PSHE Lead has opportunities to develop their skills in planning drug education, through support from Barnet's School Improvement Service.

Implementation, monitoring and review

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Governors.

Parents can request a copy of the policy from the school office.

Staff can access this policy via the school shared drive.

If an incident should occur, the policy is reviewed in the light of that incident

Policy Review

Policy implementation date: October 2023

Policy Review date: October 2026

APPENDIX A – Definition of a drug information about drugs of misuse and Support Agencies

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. All medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.

Therefore, drugs include legally controlled substances such as: Caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, amyl nitrate (poppers), as well as substances used for medical purposes, whether sold over the counter or prescribed, such as: antihistamines, antibiotics, tranquillisers and illegal substances such as: cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, LSD

Possession of some prescription-only medicines, such as Temazepam and Ritalin, is illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act if no prescription is held.

These lists are not definitive and there may be some overlap of the categories.

Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
Tobacco	Relaxation, headache, bad breath, reduced appetite	Bad cough, cancer, heart attack, breathless	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18
Alcohol	Relaxation, lose inhibitions, loss of control, vomiting, violence, drowsiness	Liver damage, impairs decision making and judgement	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18 (as a general rule).
Cannabis / marijuana	Lack of co-ordination, related heart rate increase, happy loss of inhibitions, can cause panic	Long term may cause lung disease and psychotic illness. Loss of memory, impaired judgement	Class C. Illegal to grow or supply
Solvents / gas	Facial rash, stomach cramps, lack of co-ordination, aggressive behaviour, weird visions, headaches, light headed, relaxing	Death from asphyxiation or heart seizure. Psychological dependence. Choking on vomit. Possible damage to lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and central nervous system	Illegal to sell to under 18s knowing it will be abused
Amphetamines	Initially energetic and confident, but anxiety and restlessness can follow	High doses can produce delirium, panic, paranoia or depression, heart failure, damaged blood vessels	Class B. Illegal to possess or supply (unless prescribed)
MDMA / Ecstasy	Increased energy and colour perception, feelings of well-being, increased thirst, head and muscle ache	Can lead to anxiety, panic, insomnia, hypothermia and dehydration. Some evidence of liver damage	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply

Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
LSD	Hallucinogenic effects, including intensified colours and sounds, or even out of body experiences. Effects are dependent on the strength of the dose.	Difficult to identify strength of dose. Experiences can be emotionally disturbing (bad trip) leading to anxiety. Flashbacks can occur.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Hallucinogenic mushrooms / magic mushrooms	Similar to LSD experience	Main risk is picking and eating a poisonous mushroom by mistake	Class A if processed - cooked, dried or made into tea
Amyl Nitrate	Blood vessels dilate causing a rushing sensation to head, lose balance, increased energy. May	Vomiting, shock, unconsciousness, heart attack, dizziness, headache, palpitations	Currently no legal restrictions on use or supply

	enhance sexual pleasure. Effects are short lived.		
Anabolic Steroids	Increase strength, speed, aggression and competitiveness. Enables more intensive training for longer.	Restriction on growth, spinal problems, menstrual abnormalities, voice changes, increase in hair growth	Possession for personal use not illegal. Supply is illegal, with Class C penalties.
Heroin	Euphoria, reduced anxiety and pain levels. Slow heart rate and breathing. Can cause constipation. Appetite loss.	Highly addictive. Difficult to identify strength of dose and what it is mixed with. Danger of overdose. Injecting causes abscess and other infections including septicaemia and HIV	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.
Cocaine/ Crack	Feelings of exhilaration, strength and well being. Decreased hunger, indifference to pain and fatigue. Effects relatively short term.	Comedown can bring on depression, anxiety and fatigue. Excessive doses may cause death from respiratory or heart failure. Long term use may lead to paranoid psychosis.	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply.

List of Support Agencies

National

- **Talk To Frank** - 0800 776600
www.talktofrank.com
- **Drinkline** – 0800 9178282
www.alcoholconcern.org.uk,
- **ADFAM** – 020 7 928 8898
Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London. SE1 0EH.
The national organisation for the families and friends of drug users
www.adfam.org.uk
- **Drugscope** – 020 7928 1211
Waterbridge House, 32 - 36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE.
DrugScope is a UK charity that conducts research in the drugs field and provides drugs information to professionals and the public.
www.drugscope.org.uk
- **Release** – **0207 729 5255**
388 Old Street, London, EC1V 9LT
Also, Drugs in Schools Helpline by RELEASE - 0345 366666
www.release.org.uk
- **RE-SOLV** – 0808 800 2345
30a High Street, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 8AW
The Society for the Prevention of Solvent Abuse
www.re-solv.org/
- **Childline** – 0800 1111.
Studd Street, London. N1 0QW

www.childline.org.uk

For Parents

www.lifebyles.gov.uk (help drugs/alcohol/healthy eating etc

Sex and relationships

[www. keepkidshealthy.com](http://www.keepkidshealthy.com)

Help al-non – helps people whose lives are affected by drinking/drugs

02074 03088