

# FRONT STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL



## DRUGS POLICY SEPTEMBER 2024

Front Street Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward. At Front Street Community Primary School, it is our aim to maintain our vision 'believe, achieve, together we succeed' with high expectations and a culture of improvement developed through a Growth Mindset. (Article 3, 19, 28, 33)

### Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects. (Article 13, 33)

### Definition

At Front Street Primary School 'drugs' include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:-

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal substances

**Key Stage 1: Children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.**

**Key Stage 2: Children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.**

**In line with this drug education will be taught as part of the PSHE/Jigsaw programme. This will be either within class topics, or be specifically taught as and when appropriate.**

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- practise decision making skills.
- become aware of peer pressure.
- develop assertiveness skills.
- consider the consequences of risk taking.
- learn how to access sources of help and information.
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

- evaluate media messages on drug use.

(Article 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 24, 28, 33)

### Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils. (Article 28, 33, 41)

### Consultation

The role of the Headteacher:

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework. The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The role of governors:

The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines.

The role of parents:

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school. (Article 3,5,7)

### Managing drug related incidents

- Any Drugs related incidents will be reported to the Headteacher and recorded using CPOMS. Each incident will be handled on its own merits, with discretion and confidentiality, whilst maintaining good working relationships with health and police authorities.
- L.E.A. guidance will be sought if and when the Head Teacher feels it is necessary.
- Removal of drugs. If drugs are found on the school premises, they will be disposed of accordingly (as per advice of relevant authorities).
- Illegal substances will be disposed of and witnessed by another responsible adult by being given to the police. The occurrence of either will be recorded.
- The need to ensure confidentiality is paramount in all cases.
- Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the school's policy on Child Protection. (Article 24, 33, 40, 41)

### Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing:

- There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current LEA and Government guidelines.