# Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School

## Drugs Policy

**Date: September 2026**
**Review Date: September 2028**

Winterbourne Earls Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We actively discourage the use of illegal substances, tobacco or alcohol and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge our role in the pastoral welfare of young people and we seek to enable pupils to come forward when needed, through all aspects of our school ethos.

***We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, perceive things and the way our body works. This includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.***

**INTRODUCTION**

Research shows that by the age of 11, many primary school children already have an extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may not always be accurate and complete, for others it will develop through personal experience.

Research has shown that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16 and that the first age of experimentation is decreasing. This means that children of primary age are being exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. As a school, we therefore have an important role in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising the associated health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

At Winterbourne, we believe that drugs education should provide:

- Accurate information, that is age appropriate and presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Access to other adults, besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in an environment where they feel safe and supported enough to play an active part in discussions and activities

**CONTENT**
Drugs education should begin at least two or three years before the likely age of experimentation. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's educations, matching their increasing understanding and maturity. It will be addressed through the school's PSHE education scheme: Jigsaw.

**COVERAGE**
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.

**USE OF VISITORS AND OUTSIDE SPEAKERS**
Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support us as a school, in reinforcing the messages we are giving the children, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

**MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**
Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

**ROUTINE ARRANGEMENTS**
**Medicines**:
- The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety

**Alcohol**:
- No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school

**Tobacco**:
- The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. 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

**Solvents**:
- The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work
- Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols. (only exception permitted is aerosol Ventolin/any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in a locked medicine cupboard)

**Illegal drugs**:
- No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises
- To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally

**INCIDENTS**

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours or reports of drug possession supply or drug use

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme

**PROCEDURES**

**Medical emergencies**:

- If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

**Hearsay/Rumour**:

- Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher and PSHE co-ordinator who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teacher's concerns to be compiled. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one school year the evidence will be removed from the records.

**Suspicious Behaviour**:

- Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

**Finding substances**:

- If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff
- If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed
- If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:
    - the date and time of the find or retrieval
    - the size and appearance of the substance
    - the names of those concerned
    - the action taken

- Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed

**Searching**:

- Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher, or her representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies
- Staff should not search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance

**Finding Drugs**:

- If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken. In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount.
- In all instances:
    - separate the child involved from the rest of the group
    - decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
    - inform parents

**Supply of illegal substances:**

- It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

**Returning articles which have been confiscated**:

- Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

**Recording**:

- All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours

**Confidentiality**:

- Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them notwithstanding any illegal/controlled substances. However, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk
- Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the pupil to be involved in the process
- Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their information may implicate others

**STAFF TRAINING AND SUPPORT**

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will try to organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.

**POLICY DISSEMINATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

A copy of the policy is available on request from the school office.