

CROSSLIE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL



POLICY ON DRUGS May 2021

As a Rights Respecting School we uphold the articles from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The following articles underpin this policy:

- **Article 6:** Every child has the right to life.
- **Article 24:** Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.
- **Article 32:** Governments must protect children from economic exploitation and work that is dangerous or might harm their health, development or education.
- **Article 33:** Governments must protect children from the illegal use of drugs and from being involved in the production and distribution of drugs.

1 Introduction

In September 2012 the Department for Education and the Association of Chief Policy Officer updated its guidance to school about drugs. The DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools states:

“School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when:

- *it is supported by the whole school community;*
- *drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;*
- *staff have access to high quality training and support.”*

This policy reflects that guidance, as well as meeting the requirements of the Science National Curriculum. Our school works in partnership with Manchester Healthy Schools to deliver our drugs education. Manchester Healthy Schools have been working in partnership with Manchester schools for over 20 years - tackling health inequalities and improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The team are part of the School Health Service and work in partnership with the School Nursing Service to support a whole school approach to health and wellbeing.

As part of our commitment to be a nurturing school we will offer a range of opportunities for children to build self-esteem, resilience and aspirations, as well as a positive view towards health and self-respect, all of which underpin drug and alcohol education.

2 Aims

The aims of this policy are to:

- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- Increase pupils’ knowledge about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs;
- Give guidance to staff on the schools’ drugs education programme;
- Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- Enable pupils to make informed decisions and choices and to have the assertiveness to cope with certain situations;
- Enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly

3 Terminology

The term “drugs” is used throughout this policy to refer to *all* drugs:

- All *illegal* drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971);
- All *legal* drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- All medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

4 Crosslee Primary School statement

Crosslee School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.

We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

5 Responsibilities

The headteacher will:

- Ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy;
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- Manage any drug related incidents;
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- Monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The governing body will:

- Establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- Support the headteacher in following these guidelines;
- Inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy;
- Liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the school’s policy is in line with the best advice available;
- Support the headteacher in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others’ actions.

The delivery may occur in: Class Teaching, National Curriculum Science, P.S.H.E, circle times, assemblies, visitors and through the ethos of the school. All visitors will be made aware of the school policy before giving their input.

Drugs education should:

- Build on the knowledge and understanding;
- Provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;
- Explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- Ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

Drugs Education

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, P.S.H.E, RE and PE. There are also opportunities in circle time.

Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1 where pupils are taught the rules about household substances and being safe around medicines. These lessons are delivered using the Primary IMatter PSHE scheme and its materials support pupils' learning.

In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach children the difference between legal and illegal drugs and how they can affect the mind and body. The focus of drugs education in Key Stage 2 will be on related health issues rather than moral issues. The Primary IMatter PSHE scheme and its materials will support pupils' learning.

We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational

needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from the school nurse or another health professional e.g. Manchester Healthy Schools. In teaching this course we follow the DfES and LA guidelines. The resource materials that we use are recommended either by the Health Authority or by the LA. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs at school

Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into school themselves. Parents may visit the school in the lunch break to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement.

If children need medicine during the school day, an administration medicine form can be completed by parents/carers. Parents can bring medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma). Other drugs will be stored securely in the locked cabinet in the kitchen situated near the library.

Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with solvent-based Tippex, aerosols, glues and board-cleaning fluids. (See COSHH file and records).

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches, lighters and e-cigarettes secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school or in the school grounds.

Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room for very special events outside of school hours. In such instances, any alcohol to be consumed must be kept securely beforehand.

Drugs incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not necessarily represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.

Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees.

Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds to suspect they have illegal drugs, tobacco, cigarette papers, alcohol and other items.

The headteacher will decide if the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.

A full record will be made of any incident.

The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

Procedures for the disposal of hypodermic needles found in school will be known by all Staff. A sharps box is available in school (Site Managers Office).

The role of parents

The schools is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with the parents/carers. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs policy;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved we will inform the parents/carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent/carer, particularly when the parent/carer intends driving the pupil home. Staff will always refer to a senior member of staff who will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent/carer repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider

whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to evoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police. Where incidents like this occur, staff should always refer to a senior member of staff.

Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs policy on an annual basis. If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents/carers about the drugs education programme.