



Drug and Alcohol Policy

Policy Reviewed:	September 2024
Next Review:	September 2025

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

This policy is produced to compliment Red Lane's Mission statement:

At BASE Academy we believe that all our children can achieve, becoming successful future citizens that contribute positively to a society in which all members are equally valued.

High aspirations, high motivation and high outcomes for all, ensure that achievement gaps wherever they exist are narrowed in order to improve pupils' life choices and future prospects.

We strive for all of our children to be safe, feel valued, develop resilience and continually learn within our nurturing and supportive community.

At Red Lane, our children BELIEVE, ACHIEVE and SUCCEED!

This policy is also produced taking into consideration the Department of Education (DfE) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) drugs advice for schools (September 2012).

This policy has been produced in partnership with Shane O'Neill (and Ex Chief Inspector from Greater Manchester Police) from Global Policing, who has provided a review and input to this policy. Shane is also a school governor at Red Lane with responsibility in this area. This policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Safeguarding
- PSHCE
- Medicines in school

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs (including smoking) are not acceptable within the boundaries of Red Lane School under any circumstance

2 ROLE OF THE SCHOOL

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, Red Lane has a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. The government's drug strategy 2010 provides information advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

Red Lane has:

- Developed this drugs policy which sets out our role in relation to all drug matters – this includes the content and organisation of drug education, and the management of drugs and medicines within school boundaries and on school trips.
- Has designated, Mrs. Lisa Whittaker (Head Teacher) as the senior member of staff with responsibility for the drug policy and all drug issues within the school.
- We have developed this drug policy in consultation with the whole school community including pupils, parents/carers, staff, governors and partner agencies.
- We have establish relationships with local children and young people’s services, health services and voluntary sector organisations to ensure support is available to pupils affected by drug misuse (including parental drug or alcohol problems).

3 DRUG, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO EDUCATION

Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the PSHCE and citizenship programme. It also forms part of the statutory science curriculum.

The goal of drug, alcohol and tobacco education is:

For pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

The learning objectives for drug and alcohol education include:

Attitudes and Values.

- to examine own opinions and values, and those of others
- to promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self-safe
- to enhance self-awareness and self esteem
- to value and respect self and others
- to value diversity and difference within society
- to promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs

Personal and Social Skills

- to identify risks to health
- to communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- to develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug use
- to develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- to be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media

- to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- to be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- to develop critical thinking as part of decision-making
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Knowledge and Understanding

- to develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs
- to gain an understanding of how the body functions
- to gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use
- to gain an understanding of the role of drugs in society and the laws and rules relating to their use
- to gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have worries and an understanding of confidentiality
 - to gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change.

These are covered as a progressive curriculum beginning in the Early Years throughout school up to Year 6. They are covered throughout the following units of the PSHCE curriculum in particular:

- Unit 1- Core Skills
- Unit 4- Emotional Health and Well Being
- Unit 5- Keeping Safe
- Unit 6- Being a Risk Taker
- Unit 7- Drug, alcohol and tobacco awareness
- Unit 8- Healthy Lifestyles
- Unit 9- Taking Part

The organisation of the drug education curriculum is lead by The PSHCE coordinator. Their role includes: planning the drug education curriculum via a scheme of work for PSHCE, monitor its delivery, coordination of assessment and reporting to parents. The majority of the learning objectives are delivered during the school's Healthy Living themed weeks in the summer term.

We welcome the involvement of visitors from external agencies to complement the core delivery by teaching staff. All visitors are supported in the classroom by a teacher and are informed about the school's drug education policy and the scheme of work for PSHCE and citizenship. Examples of visitors include: school nurses, Healthy Schools Team and Global Policing.

4 CONFIDENTIALITY

Confidentiality is an important consideration with respect to drugs and the boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will be honored unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfill their

professional responsibilities in relation to: child protection, cooperation with a police investigation or referral to an external service. Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality

5 SMOKING

The minimum age for smoking is 18 and Red Lane is subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

- The school is a smoke-free site
- Children, young people, staff, parents/carers and governors have been involved in the development and implementation of a smoke-free site;
- The school provides information and support for smokers to quit e.g. promoting access to smoking cessation classes, which may be provided on the school site.

If you believe a child has been supplying cigarettes that are illegal, the school can consider involving Trading Standards in the investigation of the incident.

6 DRUGS RELATED SITUATIONS

The police do not need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, and these can be dealt with by the school. Consideration should be given to the incident and the risks posed by the incident to the school and others.

In all circumstances due to the increase in new psychoactive substances (NPS), known as legal highs, if you are not sure what the substance is it should always be treated as a controlled drug.

If you believe a child has taken a controlled drug, it will be the schools policy to treat these incidents as **medical emergencies** and medical advice should be sought. Dependent on the situation this could be from speaking the NHS direct, a suitably qualified person, or by calling an ambulance. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services should be contacted for advice.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs Red Lane will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number (using CPOMs- Child Protection Incident);
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

As per ACPO guidelines drugs dogs are not to be used in Red Lane.

All drugs related incidents must be reported to Head Teacher or Safeguarding Officer, who will consider the school response to the incident, balancing the needs of the pupil and the wider community. An exclusion will only be used if it is deemed a suitable response to the incident and such incidents do not warrant this as an automatic response.

Teachers should note that failure to follow the instructions about with regards to taking temporary possession, will mean that they themselves come into possession of a controlled drug and could be liable to prosecution themselves, so it must be strictly followed.

7 SEARCHING AND CONFISCATION

The following advice has been provided to schools in the DfE searching, screen and confiscation advice to school (February 2014) publication.

SEARCHING

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees. Staff should consider the pupil's ability to consent, taking into consideration the child's age, ability to consent and if believe to be intoxicated through drink or drugs, the mental capability at the time.

The Head teacher and staff authorized by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, **without consent**. Where reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item, which include:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that a member of staff reasonably suspect has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or
- To cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of any person (including the pupil)

Under article 8 of the European Convention of Human Rights pupils have the right to respect for their private life. Therefore, all searches conducted under this policy must provide the pupil a reasonable level of personal privacy.

All searches must be justified and proportionate. It is recommended that when a search takes place that you record both the justification and reasons for carrying out the search, making note of the level of search that takes place to find the item.

The staff carrying out the search must be the same sex as the pupil. There should always be two teachers present, one carrying out the search and one witnessing the search.

Only when there is a risk of serious harm, that you believe a search must be carried out immediately can a person of the opposite sex, without a witness carry out a search.

There is no requirement to inform a parent that a search has taken place, however it would be good practice to inform the parent / guardian.

CONFISCATION

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline.

This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

8 PUPILS WITH FAMILY MEMBERS WHO MISUSE DRUGS

All staff at Red Lane will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. We will be pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and ensure we safeguard the child as a priority.

Where a child discloses to any member of staff at Red Lane concerns relating to the misuse of drugs at home by a family member the school will follow procedures as set out in the Safeguarding Policy.

9 EDUCATIONAL VISITS / SOCIAL EVENTS

The school's drug education policy applies during school visits and school social events.

During educational visits:

- Staff will be briefed about procedures and responsibilities before all visits, which will include the issue of consumption of alcohol and smoking by staff
- Adults should keep any personal medication in a safe place
- A nominated first aider will be responsible for the safe storage of any pupils' medicines and supervision their administration
- Pupils will be reminded about the relevant school rules in advance.

School social events:

- At all social events organised by the school the responsibility for the conduct of the pupils present

remains with the parent/carer.

- At such events the school 'No Smoking Policy will be enforced.
- This school will not condone the use of any illegal substance by any individual during social activities connected with the school.
- Adults at designated school functions, subject to compliance with licensing law and within reasonable limits, may consume alcohol.

10 STAFF- UNDER THE INFLUENCE

Under no circumstance should any member of staff be under the influence of drink or drugs during working hours at Red Lane School. Careful consideration should be given to still being under the influence of drink the morning after a night out, as this will also be classed as being under the influence of drink if the member of staff is working and there is evidence of still being under the influence.

Staff should also note that under no circumstance will they take an illegal substance whilst representing the school at an educational visit or social event. Staff will not consume alcohol without prior and absolute permission by the Head Teacher when representing the school.

If a member of staff believes or has information that another member of staff maybe under the influence of drink or drugs, they must inform a member of the senior leadership team as soon as possible.

Should a member of a senior leadership team believe a member of staff is under the influence of drink or drugs whilst on duty, they will follow school discipline procedures, and will give priority to the safety and welfare of the children at the school at all times.

11 IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REVIEW

Implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Executive Headteacher and Governors.

Date of Policy: September 2020

Date of next review of policy: September 2021