



Calmore Infant School

Drugs Policy

Approved by Governors

Reviewed Dec 2023



Drugs Policy Calmore Infant School

Statement

At Calmore Infant School we believe that the health and safety of our pupils, staff and parents is important and that we will take any action necessary to safeguard their well-being.

Aims

- 1) To enable children to understand the differences in the good and bad effects of medicines and drugs on their health and wellbeing, e.g. that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines and that some people rely on them to live a normal life.
- 2) To enable children to understand the dangers associated with cleaning agents and other materials, e.g. that all substances can be harmful if not used properly.
- 3) To enable children to make informed decisions acting upon their knowledge.
- 4) To encourage children to voice opinions and communicate concerns.

Guidance and curriculum organisation

We will follow selected guidance from the DFE and Hampshire PSHE guidelines.

We will include help from the police, the Fire Service, the school nurse, the Class Charter and other PSHE sources.

Each year group will include at least once in the year a lesson/series of lessons relating to drugs, medicines and other substances (including tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances). Within the lesson there will be a focus on the right to say 'No.'

Whilst it is the responsibility of all teachers to ensure that effective drug education takes place, the Deputy Headteacher / Headteacher will oversee the curriculum guidance.

The Schools' Position On Drugs

With reference to the Health & Safety policy, we operate a non-smoking policy at Calmore Infant School. This extends to drug misuse and handling. Although we are fully aware that some members of our community rely on drugs such as inhalers, aspirin etc and epi-pens to benefit their health and welfare, we operate a zero tolerance for other unauthorised drugs and substances. This includes smoking in the school, car park and other areas in the immediate vicinity of the school.

This policy relates to everyone on the school site.

By the term drugs we mean any substance that people take that could change the way they feel, think or behave. This also includes any illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), all legal drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and those giving off vapours) and, over-the-counter prescribed drugs and also any psychoactive substances outlined in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 which may affect emotional state by stimulating or depressing a person's central nervous state.

Drugs in School

Only prescribed medicines are to be administered in school, inhalers and epi-pens by staff (who will undertake periodic training in their administration), and any other medicine by the parent or carer. In the event of a pupil attending school with a long term medical condition, members of staff will receive the appropriate training to administer any medication required. Inhalers will be available in school office. Epi-pens must be kept in clearly labelled containers, in the school office, in a safe place that is inaccessible to other children. Please refer to our policy on Supporting Medical Needs in School.

Consideration of need will be taken when planning school trips and visits. Trained personnel and always present on a trip.

Alcohol is only allowed on the premises in small quantities and for specific special occasions and not to be consumed in the presence of children.

All volatile and cleaning substances are to be kept locked in the caretakers' cupboards during the day. Any classroom substances e.g. hairspray, fixative etc to be kept out of the reach of children at all times and only used in the absence of children.

No illegal drugs are to be allowed on either school premises.

'In school' means anywhere within school boundaries. It also applies to any offsite activity including school trips and visits. The response to drug related incidents will depend on

whether an adult or child is involved. At all times the safety of our children is to take priority.

Finding Substances.

If a member of staff discovers a harmful substance it will be removed by a member of staff, carefully and with safety in mind, to a place of safe keeping (a safe container locked in the caretaker's room) in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff and the Executive Headteacher informed immediately. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police will be informed.

If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over the counter medicines, parents will be informed and the above procedure followed. A record will be made which will include:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval
- The size and appearance of the substance
- The names of those concerned

The action taken.

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered the items will be handled with care, the incident recorded and, in the case of needles and syringes, they will be put in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on children, their parents will be informed.

Searching

The Site Manager or School Caretaker at both sites routinely checks the school premises each morning for any dangerous items, including equipment associated with drug use. Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school and the Headteacher or her representative will authorise a search of these if there is a reasonable suspicion of drug use on the premises. The search will be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies. Staff will not search a pupils' property or person but will try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking him/her to turn out his/her pockets or bag. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil a police officer will be required and parents will be invited to be present.

Disclosure and Confidentiality

The disclosure procedure will be followed in accordance with all the Federation's Safeguarding Policies. If a pupil discloses his/her own involvement with drugs or discloses, or the school discovers, a parent/carer, relative or friend is using or selling drugs, it may be necessary to share information with the schools' Designated Safeguarding Lead in order to keep the child safe as per the child safety act.

Parents will be informed of the policy through the school website

This policy will be reviewed with staff annually and shared with new staff as part of their induction. The jurisdiction of this policy lies with the Headteacher and a member of the governing body.