



Drugs Education Policy

Witton Middle School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Management of Drugs in School

Witton Middle School does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorised legal drug) which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term-time, on school visits, school journeys/ residential and at school social events. These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working in and visiting the school.

Smoking Policy

We are a smoke free school and staff, parents and carers, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school. 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. Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we do not allow the use of them by staff, parents/carers, contractors or visitors on the school premises.

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.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

A drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries. These can involve a parent/carer collecting their child while under the influence of alcohol; misusing another pupil's inhaler; disclosing concern about a family member who is abusing drugs; giving medicines to another pupil and the school caretaker finding drugs, or related items, on school premises. A drug related incident may also include, but is not limited to, any of the following:

- Finding used syringes (or other related paraphernalia) in the school grounds
- 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



Drugs Education

At Witton Middle School we believe that drugs education should provide:

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly and at an age-appropriate level
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part.

We aim to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school and to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. At Witton Middle School we encourage children to develop positive attitudes and values and to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use. Welfare of pupils is paramount and procedures and policies are designed to reflect this commitment.

Objectives

- To develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions
- To encourage children to value themselves and others
- To encourage children to help and support others
- To encourage children to work cooperatively in active learning and group work
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at Witton Middle School
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.
- To help children understand the reasons why some people may use or abuse drugs and that there are sources of help and support for those involved or affected by the drug use of another individual

Definition

At Witton Middle School 'drugs' include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal substances
- Legal 'highs'

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 Governing Body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The role of parents/carers

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents/carers. 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
- invite parents to view any 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 raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary
- 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

Resources

Drugs education is part of the planned PSHCE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science and through circle time. The PSHCE framework outlines the areas to be covered each year. The NC guidelines for science require that children are taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHE&C), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Teaching

Our approach to drugs education is one which children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower children to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned.

Teaching is:

- Appropriately-resourced
- Reflects the needs and experiences of pupils with sensitivity to the fact that some may have been or will be exposed to lifestyles involving drug use
- Uses a range of teaching methods including group work, discussions, videos and outside speakers
- Reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles
- Flexible and relevant
- In the context of a wider PSHE programme
- Interesting and stimulating
- Informed.

Outside visitors

If outside speakers are used in any aspect of the drugs education programme, their contribution will be properly planned. They will support the work of the teacher. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions and will evaluate the work afterwards. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned. Training, monitoring and evaluation Teaching and learning is monitored in relation to this agree policy and the school's Teaching and Learning policy. The PSHE &C coordinator has responsibility for monitoring drug education teaching and learning in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Managing drug related incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drug

The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff. The school's policy is that 'no individuals should be under the influence of drugs (as detailed in this policy) while on the school premises (within the boundary of the external playground wall) unless a doctor's note indicates that this does

not affect the individuals capacity to perform their duties, take care of children in their charge, or in the case of pupils, take part in lessons. Appendix A outlines the procedure to be followed in individual circumstances. All incidents are recorded in the incident monitoring log.

All members of the school community are aware of these procedures and the implications for individuals. Each incident will be dealt with on an individual basis. The school follows Worcestershire County Council's procedures for the Handling and Disposal of drug related paraphernalia –

Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the school's policy on Child Protection.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing

- Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation
- 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 LA and Government guidelines.

Guiding principles

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/carers are encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme. In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- The Headteacher will be informed immediately
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking into account the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/Carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police, will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements

The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence.

Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and will be consistent with the Behaviour Policy.

ASSOCIATED POLICIES

Behaviour Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

GDPR Data Protection Policy

Offsite Visits Policy

Safeguarding Children Policy

This policy appears on the school website

Prepared by: Deputy Headteacher Responsibility of: Deputy Headteacher

Agreement Date: December 2018 Review Date: December 2021

This Policy was prepared giving due regard to the disabilities and/or special education needs, age, race, religion or belief, sex/sexual orientation, gender/gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity of the children and staff at Witton Middle School and its community.

VERSION CONTROL

Date	Version	Approved by	Title	Changes
07.2017	1		Drugs Policy	
20.12.18	2	FGB	Drugs Policy	School responsibilities updated

Appendix A

Scenario:		Likely action:	Informed by:
1	Illegal drugs found in school	Keep drugs in a safe/secure place	Phone police to collect
2	Pupils found under the influence of drugs/alcohol	Pupil in a safe place	Inform parents/carers and other agencies if necessary
3	Parents/carers found under the influence of drugs/alcohol	Advise Headteacher	Choose from one of three options a) Police b) Asked to leave c) Social services
4	Staff/governors/visitors under the influence of drugs/alcohol	Advise Headteacher	HR procedures and code of conduct.
5	Disclosure by the pupil	We are sensitive to pupils who live in an environment where drugs are being used and this will be dealt with according to our child protection procedures	Inform parents/carers and other agencies if necessary