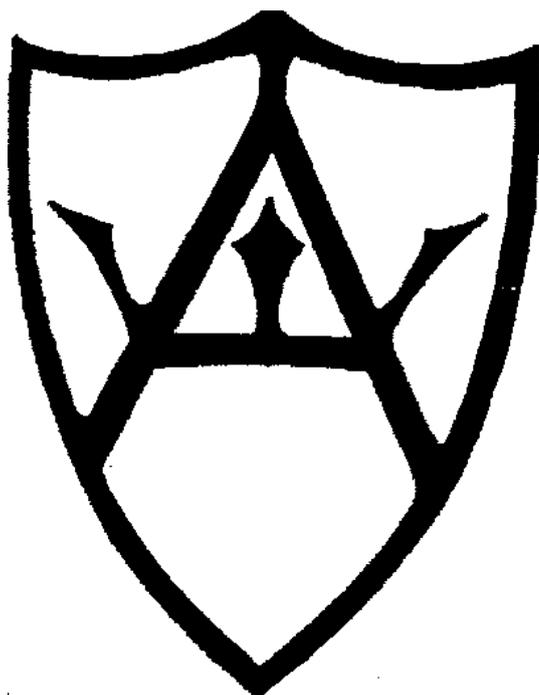


Alfriston School



Drug, Alcohol & Tobacco Education Policy

Approved by FGB: March 2026

Alfriston Primary School is committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and the school will take action to safeguard their well-being.

We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.

We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors;
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations;
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency;
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Key roles and responsibilities

Headteacher & PSHEe Lead: Lindsey Hudson

Inclusive definition of drugs

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

Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Boundaries, including relevance of the policy to school trips and visits

The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles or any venue managed by the school at the time of e.g. premises of a school trip or visit. The policy will also relate to pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

DRUG EDUCATION

Context

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) Education programme.

Ethos

Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision-making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

Content

It is felt that drug education should start at least two to three years before the likely age of experimentation. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

EYFS and Key Stage 1

Children are introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and that some things can cause harm.

Key Stage 2

Children are introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco (including e-cigarettes), alcohol and other drugs.

In line with these proposals, drug education will be taught as part of the PSHE Education programme.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse;
- practise decision making skills;
- become aware of peer pressure;
- develop assertiveness skills;
- consider the consequences of risk taking;
- learn how to access sources of help and information;
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support our

planned teacher-led programme of education, 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 (see Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy) 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 e-cigarettes, vapes, 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 if it is necessary for pupil to come into contact with them in the course of their work, they will be closely supervised. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols.

• 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 it is clear of any drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes. If any are found they will be cleared away safely and legally. Any adult under the effects of illegal drugs will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

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 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.

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 individual's safety.

• Hearsay/Rumour

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher/Designated Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead 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 the duration of a rolling year (i.e. a year from the date when it was passed on), 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 who is a senior member of 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.

The Headteacher and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items related to this policy are:

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- e-cigarettes and vapes
- solvents
- glue
- prescribed or over the counter medicines

- Finding Drugs

If children are found in possession of tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the counter medicines, we will inform the individual's pupil's parents or carer, though there is no requirement to do so.

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

Prohibited items which have been confiscated will, where appropriate, be handed in to the police. If not handed to the police they will be destroyed/disposed of by a member of staff. The only exception to this is medicines that are prescribed for the child, in this case they will be returned to the parent.

- Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours.

- Safeguarding

All reports will be responded to with sensitivity. Where there are safeguarding concerns, a referral to SPOA will be sought.

- 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 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. This will be part of the school's induction procedure.

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change focus entirely on reducing alcohol harm, working across the whole range of serious alcohol harms, from mental and physical to societal and economic. Website: <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/>

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Website www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0300 123 1110.

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>