



Drugs Education Policy

Last Reviewed	June 2020
Next Review Date	September 2026
Ratified by the Headteacher	September 2023

Drugs Education Policy

1. Aim

The aim of this policy is to clarify procedure and provision linked to effective drugs education in Horsforth School.

2. Ethos

2.1 Ethos of Horsforth School in relation to Drugs Education

The curriculum at Horsforth School aims to provide opportunities for all of its students to learn and achieve. As part of this, the school curriculum aims to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Effective drugs education and incident management contributes to the overall ethos of the school. Drugs Education is embedded in our PSHCE programme and all students take part in drugs education in years 7-13.

2.2 What are the aims of drug education?

Drugs education at Horsforth School aims to help its students:

- To develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Make informed decisions, learn how to plan and manage choices.
- Know how to keep safe. Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility.
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others.
- Maintain and develop relationships.
- Develop self confidence.
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Develop the motivation to succeed
- Recognise risk and associated consequences
- Know basic emergency aid procedures
- Seek help if appropriate

2.3 Contribution of drugs education to the health and safety of students, their families and the wider community

The National Curriculum makes reference to the importance of drugs education within the wider context of PSHCE and it is part of statutory Relationships and Sex Education and Health Education for September 2020. The benefits of drugs education span the student, the school and the wider community. It is part of our statutory duty to promote pupil's wellbeing; preventing drug misuse and education on a range of drugs is part of this duty.

2.4 Drugs Education helps students to:

- Equip themselves with the skills to live in a drug-orientated society.
- Deal with risk and meet the challenges of life now and in the future.
- Develop skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to make healthier, safer choices and lifestyles.
- Achieve and raise standards in school through programmes aimed at increasing student motivation, self-esteem and responsibility.

2.5 Drugs Education helps Horsforth School by:

- Promoting health, wellbeing and safeguarding.*
- Having a more sophisticated response to drug related incidents.
- Reducing exclusions through a more targeted approach to those in need.
- Building on a positive multi agency provision.

2.6 Drugs Education helps the wider community by:

- Creating healthier young people.
- Developing informed young people who are more able to make safer decisions regarding themselves and others.

3. Definitions

What is a drug?

Current educational thinking agrees that a drug is “any substance which when taken changes the way that the body works or how a person behaves, thinks and feels” (Drugscope).

The word drug throughout this document refers to:

- All legally available medicines and anabolic steroids (prescribed over the counter).
- All legally used substances e.g. tobacco, alcohol, solvents and glues, poppers and e-cigarettes.
- All illegally possessed, used and supplied substances e.g. cannabis, LSD, ecstasy and heroin, And the new synthetic drugs, such as “spice” or so called ‘legal highs’

4. Procedures

Procedures to support this policy are appended.

5. Evaluation

This policy/procedure will be evaluated every three years by the Headteacher to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Circumstances may require more frequent modifications. On 8th May 2019, the Trustee Board delegated responsibility to evaluate and ratify this policy/procedure to the Headteacher.

6. Authors

This policy was updated by SAN in September 2023.

PROCEDURES TO SUPPORT THE DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of the curriculum leader responsible for drugs education – PSHCE leads

- Ensures that effective drugs education is written into all schemes of work for PSHCE.
- Ensures continuity in teaching and learning.
- Monitors progression of all students
- Offers guidance on appropriate teaching and learning methods.
- Develops effective links with specialist services and agencies.
- Is an exemplar in the teaching of PSHCE / Drugs Education
- Provides support for teams and individuals, in-house training where needed.
- Keeps up to date with local and national data, including relevant guidance.

The role of the Trustees

- Agrees the broad aims of the PSHCE curriculum and oversees the Drugs Policy.
- Ensures that everyone in the school community works in a healthy and safe environment.
- Liaises with the Head teacher to ensure the roles and responsibilities pertaining to drugs education are maintained.
- Involvement in any case conference considering exclusion, which may be drug related.

The roles of the Head teacher and Deputy Headteacher: Pastoral

- The Head teacher has day-to-day responsibility for the premises and what happens there. Drug laws applying to the premises are relevant.
- The Deputy Head teacher has responsibility for drug paraphernalia such as needles, syringes and broken bottles. She is responsible for liaising with the police and issuing guidelines to pastoral staff for their safe disposal or collection.
- The Head teacher has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the schools drugs policy. This task may be delegated.

The role of the PSHCE teacher who delivers Drugs Education:

- All teachers are aware of the drugs policy
- All teachers know who the staff with responsibility for drugs related incidents are.
- Teachers will use the SOW for each year group which covers the new statutory curriculum. Teachers will provide young people with information and facts about the effects and dangers of drug use, but will not promote the use of any one drug.
- Teachers will give young people a clear understanding of the consequences of drug use and how the law applies to drugs.
- Lessons will teach the skills needed in appropriate situations including basic first aid procedures.
- Teachers will deal sensitively with students who may have a known family background of drug use.
- Teachers will give additional information (phone numbers, websites etc) for individuals or a class on where they can obtain confidential advice, counselling and where necessary treatment. Signposting to support is part of a lesson.
- Teachers will follow safeguarding reporting protocols if there is a cause for concern.
- Staff should feel confident and committed to delivering lessons, however, PSHCE leads will deliver lessons where this is not the case.
- PSHCE leads will use local police contacts and other agencies such as Forward Leeds where appropriate to support lesson delivery.

Guidelines used for Drugs Education at Horsforth School

- The new statutory framework for RSE and Health education, DfE 2019.
- Drug, Alcohol, Tobacco Education Guidance, QCA.
- Drug Education Guidance DCSF 2007.
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for Schools: September 2012.

Delivery of drugs education at Horsforth School

Drugs education is a component of the wider PSHCE programme. This is co-ordinated by the curriculum leader of RE and PSHCE.

All students in years 7-13 will have one hour of PSHCE a fortnight. Drug education is part of this.

Good drugs education shares many of the features of well-taught lessons in any subject. At Horsforth School as well as effective planning and monitoring a range of teaching strategies is employed. These teaching strategies relate to the age, stage of development, personal needs, family and religious and cultural background of the student.

Consideration is given to the following:

- Providing a safe, supportive environment, and establishment of ground rules.
- Making the objectives of the lesson explicit to the students.
- Acknowledging the current stage of knowledge and understanding of the students.
- Enabling students to express their real needs and contribute their own experiences.
- Allowing for the exploration and clarification of attitudes and values.
- Enabling students to develop skills in order to deal with drug and health related issues.

Teaching strategies may include:

- Circle time.
- Discussion and agreeing ground rules for working together.
- Initial climate building.
- Active participatory group and pair work.
- Comparing viewpoints and clarifying attitudes and values.
- Problem solving exercises.
- Role play.
- Considering moral and social dilemmas.
- Story time
- Research presentations
- Assertiveness exercise
- ICT

The Curriculum

Year 7: Smoking, E-cigarettes & Vaping

Year 8: Cannabis (the law – supply and procession) and Alcohol – physical and psychological consequences of addition including dependency

Year 9: Legal and illegal drugs and the risks, links between drug use and serious mental health conditions

Year 10: Revisit of how alcohol and drugs can lead to risky behaviour, and as part of RSE. Drop down sessions on drugs based on current 'trending' drug use. Basic first aid training in response to drug taking.

Year 11: Alcohol dependency, Drugs and the law revisited and the Impact of substances and risky behaviours. Impact on safeguarding concerns and revisit first aid in response to drug taking.

Year 12 and 13: Contextual drugs education based on 'trending' drug use locally and nationally.

Drugs education also forms part of Science and PE lessons. Students who study Health & Social Care will also look at the effects and risks of drugs on both children and pregnant mothers.

We regularly promote drugs education through whole school assemblies, health and safety week and specialist lessons carried out by external speakers.

We respond quickly to incidents related to new drugs or “trends” involving drugs by using PSHCE s lessons and or form time or one off assemblies.

Managing Drug Related incidents

Horsforth School has nominated staff with responsibility for dealing with drug related incidents at Horsforth School.

These staff are: the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) and the Director of Behaviour and wider members of the pastoral team or leadership team

When an incident occurs:

- The student will be removed from the situation to a designated safe room.
- Two members of staff will always be present the student.
- The student will be questioned, spoken with and searched if needed.
- Any substance or paraphernalia will be confiscated and put in a safe place.
- The student will be sent to the medical room to assess their wellbeing and state of mind.
- Staff will alert parents or carers when it is appropriate to do so.
- Staff may contact the police.
- A full investigation with statements will follow.
- The school will deploy the appropriate sanction and speak with parents about this.
- The student will be offered pastoral support in school if appropriate and the school may refer to external agencies for support for that young person
- All incidents involving drugs will be reported on the schools safeguarding system: CPOMs

Staff should not deal with drugs related incidents themselves or act in isolation. They should pass on this responsibility to the nominated staff or the Headteacher as soon as is practicably possible.

Confidentiality

Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. If a member of staff is informed of drug use or abuse he / she should follow school procedures, reporting concerns and see the designated teachers and staff for child protection, and / or use the Behaviour Support Team call out email or the emergency call out button

Staff will always encourage students to talk to parents and carers and will give them support to do so.