



Newtown C.E. Primary School

Drug and substance misuse

Ratification date:	May 2019	Mrs Emma Howlett (HEADTEACHER) Mrs Janet Cane (CHAIR OF GOVERNORS)
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School Vision

At Newtown C of E Primary School, our motto is enriched and sustained by our Christian values of **Love, Courage and Friendship**, rooted in the teachings of the Bible. We are guided by the call to *“love one another as I have loved you”* (John 13:34), *“be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go”* (Joshua 1:9), and *“a friend loves at all times”* (Proverbs 17:17).

As a school at the heart of an evolving community, we warmly welcome children and families from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. We are enriched by the unique qualities each child brings and value the talents and perspectives that help us grow together.

We are an aspirational school serving our community. We seek to know, understand and celebrate every child, nurturing their individual strengths and talents. We prepare our children to become confident, responsible global citizens in an ever-changing world, guided by our core values of love, courage and friendship.

Through **Love**, we show kindness, compassion and generosity, building a community where everyone feels safe, welcomed and valued. Through **Courage**, we persevere, meet challenge with confidence, and stand up for what is right with honesty and grace. Through **Friendship**, we grow together — encouraging one another, celebrating each other’s gifts, and looking to the future with hope and aspiration.

We live out these values by:

- Being a caring, welcoming and inclusive Christian community where staff, pupils, parents and governors work together in a safe and supportive environment, inspired by *“Above all, love each other deeply”* (1 Peter 4:8)
- Promoting the welfare and dignity of every child, safeguarding them from harm — including physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying — in accordance with statutory guidance in *Keeping Children Safe in Education* (Department for Education)

- Providing a rich, engaging curriculum that equips children with the knowledge, skills and character to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens, reflecting Christian teachings and British Values
- Building strong, positive partnerships with parents, the church and the wider community, and encouraging participation in local, national and global initiatives
- Fostering our Learning Behaviours of Resilience, Focus, Independence, Self-Regulation, Respect and Boundaries, encouraging children to act with integrity, perseverance and kindness in all they do

At Newtown, we want every child to know they belong, are cherished, and are capable of great things. Through **Love, Courage and Friendship**, we grow minds, shape futures and journey together in hope.

Aims and Objectives of the Policy

A drug is defined as any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. (See: appendix 1) Our school operates a smoke free site and takes the matter of illegal drugs very seriously. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country and within our community. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce drug misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents. We will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education, the school rules in relation to drugs and have the opportunity to be consulted about the school's policy and teaching programme.

Drug education curriculum

Drug education within the school is mainly delivered as part of the PDL programme. It also forms part of the statutory science curriculum. The goal of drug and alcohol 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 learn how to give and secure help
- 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

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.

The organisation of the drug education curriculum

A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used in PDL together with carefully selected teaching materials. There is a place for active learning approaches, such as role-play, small group work and problem solving, which more effectively engage pupils in the learning process. Ground rules are used in PDL sessions to establish a safe, secure and supportive learning environment, which emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills. Pupils are shown respect for personal privacy and time is taken to explain the implications of personal disclosures. The teaching and learning approaches also include a variety of methods and strategies that cater for the range of attainment levels of our pupils and their diverse needs. We welcome the involvement of visitors such as the nurse and NSPCC to complement the core delivery by teaching staff. All visitors are supported in the classroom by a teacher.

Confidentiality and child protection

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 staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. It may be necessary to invoke child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. In such circumstances the DSL will be informed and child protection procedures will be followed. Relevant examples include a disclosure of illegal drug use by a pupil, and reporting of problematic substance misuse in the family home. Where there is disclosure of illegal substance use by a pupil, parents will be informed in all but the most exceptional circumstances.

Drug related situations

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs. We do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse

of Drugs Act 1971. Any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be disposed of appropriately.

The following will guide staff's response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse.

- Initial response and investigation
- Inform senior colleague – who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and decide about any disposal
- Consider responses, including whether to contact police – including possible disposal and further searching
- Contact parents / carers
- Consider contacting chair of governors, LEA and other support services;
- Consider sanctions / support needs of pupil(s) involved
- Draw up and implement action plan.

Any tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal substances found on pupils will be confiscated. If necessary a pupil will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent / carer. Substance misuse at school is a serious matter. If a pupil is discovered with tobacco, alcohol, solvents or illegal drugs, then a fixed period suspension will be a consideration. More serious disciplinary consequences will be considered, together with support needs and child protection, dependent upon individual circumstances.

The school has the powers, with police assistance if necessary, to remove anyone from the site who is causing a nuisance or disturbance. This includes being intoxicated. The safety of pupils during the journey to and from school is important. If staff have concerns about the safety of a pupil due to parent /carer intoxication then discussion will be held with the adult and consideration given to moving the pupil to a safer environment and / or alternative means of travel home.

Drug/Alcohol use on the premises

Our school makes it clear that drug/alcohol use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to senior management. This includes:

- Smoking on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening or weekend events. This includes the use of e-cigarettes.
- Alcohol on the school site during the school day
- Alcohol consumed by adults in the playground
- Adults on the school premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement; this includes excessive alcohol use/consumption the previous day/evening and the impact of this on others.
- Adults in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the school premises. If any type of alcohol is given to a member of staff as a gift; this must be kept in a lockable cupboard until it can be taken home the same day.

Where school staff suspect that there is transgression of these guidelines senior management should be informed immediately at which point a judgement will be made as to whether they should:

- Approach the individual
- Call the police
- Make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of children on the school site.

At all times the safety of the children remains the key factor in any decision made whilst staff should also be alert to the danger they may bring on themselves by certain courses of action. Any repeat of transgressions might be referred to the Local Authority in order for legal action to be taken. If there is concern that parents collecting a child may potentially place that child at risk the school can, in extreme circumstances, refuse to hand over the pupil. The appropriate services would then be notified immediately.

Health & Safety and medicines

Please see Health and Safety Policy for additional information. The safety of the individual and of all others on the school site are the most important concern if a pupil, visitor or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of any drug or substance which adversely affects their judgement. Responding consistently within our stated Health and Safety procedures, including, where necessary, the administration of first aid, is the priority. Should any drug related paraphernalia be discovered on the school site, most will be handled within existing health & safety procedures using safety equipment such as disposable gloves, and will be bagged up and disposed of in the rubbish. A written record will be kept of suspicious paraphernalia. Pupils will be advised to not touch suspect items, such as discarded injecting equipment, but report the matter to a member of staff. The member of staff will ensure safety is maintained, until appropriate disposal of the item(s) is undertaken. Solvents or hazardous chemicals legitimately used carefully by school staff or pupils and are stored securely in the lockable cupboards, managed in a way to prevent inappropriate access or use and subject to a COSHH Risk Assessment.

The school provides for the safe and secure storage of medicines:

- All adults are responsible for the secure storage of their own medication
- There is a locked staff medicine cabinet held in the first aid area within the school office.
- There are first aid kits on the school site, with information about their location.

Staff only administer medicines if written parental consent has been provided and agreed to by the school and the member of staff. Some children will also have an Individual Health Care plan, which will outline the medication the child will receive and how/where the medication is stored. This may involve additional training for members of staff involved in offering assistance, which may also include assistance with surgical appliances (e.g. artificial limbs) and medical aids (e.g. hearing aids). For storage of medicines etc please see the Policy for Supporting Children with Medical Conditions.

Emergency aid

Summoning medical help from an ambulance is crucial, but in the interim period emergency aid should be applied as follows by a trained first aider:

- Move the child or young person as little as possible
- Put into the recovery position

- Ensure the mouth is open and unobstructed
- Keep them warm and quiet
- Monitor breathing, start artificial respiration if breathing stops or become shallow
- Apply chest compression if there is no heart beat

If staff have any suspicions that a pupil is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance, care should be taken to not chase or overexcite the pupil. Strenuous activity for volatile substance misusers can increase the risk of sudden death. The pupil should be kept calm until the effects have worn off.

Educational visit/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. The consumption of alcohol should be kept to the drink drive limit and one member of staff should abstain from alcohol. If there is a designated driver, they should also abstain from drinking alcohol. Any staff who need to smoke will need to do so in a designated area, out of site from the children and only when there is a safe staff to child ratio.
- 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.

Staff matters including training

All staff are expected to work within the agreed policy and their own professional and employment terms and conditions. Training will be available to all staff on: basic awareness of drugs (including alcohol), emergency procedures, procedures in the event of an incident, confidentiality and disclosure, and awareness of the drug education teaching programme within PDL and its consistency with the school's values. In addition, the specific professional development needs of teachers delivering aspects of drug education within PDL will be incorporated into individual and team professional development plans.

Implementation, monitoring and review

Implementation of the policy is the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governors. Opportunities will be made to inform parents about their children's drug education and about wider support and concerns about drugs, both through written information and parents' events.

Appendix 1

Definition of a drug and information about drugs of misuse

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. All medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines. Therefore, drugs include legally controlled substances such as: Caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, amyl nitrate (poppers), as well as substances used for medical purposes, whether sold over the counter or prescribed, such as: antihistamines, antibiotics, tranquillisers and illegal substances such as: cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, LSD. Possession of some prescription-only medicines, such as Temazepam and Ritalin, is illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act if no prescription is held.

These lists are not definitive and there may be some overlap of the categories. Substance	Effects	Risks	Legal Position
Tobacco	Relaxation, headache, bad breath, reduced appetite	Bad cough, cancer, heart attack, breathless	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18
Alcohol	Relaxation, lose inhibitions, loss of control, vomiting, violence, drowsiness	Liver damage, impairs decision making and judgement	Illegal to sell to anyone under 18 (as a general rule).
Cannabis / marijuana	Lack of co-ordination, related heart rate increase, happy loss of inhibitions, can cause panic	Long term may cause lung disease and psychotic illness. Loss of memory, impaired judgement	Class C. Illegal to grow or supply
Solvents / gas	Facial rash, stomach cramps, lack of co-ordination, aggressive behaviour, weird visions, headaches, light headed, relaxing	Death from asphyxiation or heart seizure. Psychological dependence. Choking on vomit. Possible damage to lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and central nervous system	Illegal to sell to under 18s knowing it will be abused
Amphetamines	Initially energetic and confident, but anxiety and restlessness can follow	High doses can produce delirium, panic, paranoia or depression, heart failure, damaged blood vessels	Class B. Illegal to possess or supply (unless prescribed)
MDMA / Ecstasy	Increased energy and colour perception, feelings of well-being, increased thirst, head and muscle ache	Can lead to anxiety, panic, insomnia, hypothermia and dehydration. Some evidence of liver damage	Class A. Illegal to possess or supply