



## Oakridge Schools Federation Drugs Awareness Policy

Approved by:	Full Governing Body
Review frequency:	Every 4 years
Date last approved:	September 2024
Next review date due:	Summer 2028

### Rationale

At Oakridge Schools Federation, the welfare of the school community is important. Therefore children, parents, teachers and Governors need to be made aware of the dangers of drugs within our society. There needs to be recognition that many drugs are accepted as part of daily life but can still be harmful if misused. It is our belief that if we inform and educate our school community, it will allow them to make informed choices, remain safe and healthy and, where necessary, seek help and advice with confidence.

### Aims

- To provide the children with relevant information to allow them to make informed choices and decisions
- To provide support and guidance for staff who deliver the drugs education programme
- To provide guidance for the school community on how to deal with drugs and drug related incidents and issues

### Curriculum Coverage

Pupils will be taught:

- About the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health
- How to make informed choices
- Which commonly available drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks
- That pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources including people they know, and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.

### Equal Opportunities

All children will be given full access to the Drugs Education Programme.

### Specific Issues

- Parents have the right to withdraw their children from any session where drugs or drug related issues will be discussed except where it is part of the National Curriculum. They will be informed in advance to allow them to make this decision
- When a residential or field trip is organised, those adults helping should be made aware that there is to be no smoking in front of the children and that alcohol will not be consumed while responsible for a group of children
- The school operates a no smoking policy in line with LA guidelines

- Where a disclosure is made by a child or parent regarding drugs or a drug related incident, confidentiality will be maintained unless it is deemed to be reportable offence
- Where necessary, the designated safeguarding officer for the school may need to be involved due to the circumstances of any individual family situation. Such situations will have the confidentiality of the child protection policy
- Medication can only be administered to a child if a parent has completed a disclaiming form at the school office and the headteacher has been consulted, according to agreed procedures, and as explained in the school prospectus

### **Responding to a Drugs Related Incident**

Where an individual is on the school premises while under the influence of a drug or substance, they will be asked to leave of their own accord. If they refuse to comply, guidance will be sought from the police. No member of staff will attempt to remove them from the premises. Measures will be taken to ensure that all staff and children remain safe.

Where a child is involved in a drug related incident, reports and statements will be made and the incident recorded fully on an incident report form. Relevant local agencies may be called to help resolve the situation and advise the child, parents and school. More serious incidents will have to be dealt with formally by taking statements and seizing evidence and then dealing with the child by involving the police.

The Governors will be kept informed of all incidents which occur.

Appropriate training will be undertaken by responsible staff and Governors where available. Where a member of staff is involved in a drug related incident, they will be disciplined under the terms and conditions of employment. If it is deemed appropriate, the relevant external agencies will be informed which could lead to arrest or prosecution.