

# UPPERBY PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Drugs Education Policy



### School Details

Acting Head teacher:	Mrs P Burns
Chair of Governors:	Mr W Atkinson
Policy Date:	November 2022
Policy Review Cycle:	Biannual
Next Review Date:	November 2024

A drug is any chemical substance that when taken alters mood, perception or consciousness. By definition caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, prescribed medicines, solvents, volatile substance and illegal drugs are all contained within the spectrum of substances known as drugs.

### Aims and objectives

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children become more confident and responsible young people. In our PSHE unit; **Drugs, alcohol and Tobacco awareness**, we teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking, we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives:
- To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas:
- To help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives:
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs:
- To help children respect their own bodies and in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse:
- To show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices:
- To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by governors and staff.

### Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In circle-time session we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them; we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is and how drugs are used in medicine, we also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum, we have a specific unit within our PSHE curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6 where the children are taught about illegal drugs and the dangers involved to those who take them, however all children in school have an age- appropriate drugs education unit (see PSHE long term overview).The resources and materials we primarily use are from Scarf Coram Life Education. Coram Life Education helps schools meet their statutory requirements for Relationships and Health Education, children's Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development.

Lessons that focus on drug education form part of sequences of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle. The children's class teacher teaches drugs education in normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher may need to seek support from the Head teacher, PSHE Lead or a health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves at danger in future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem in society. The life Bus comes into school and some of the sessions during this activity relate to drugs.

### **The role of Governors**

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

### **The role of parents**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children in our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice:
- 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:
- 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.

### **Monitoring and review**

The head teacher monitors this policy on a regular basis and reports to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of this policy. The policy will be reviewed every two years.

This policy was agreed by the governing body on 12th July 2018, 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 & November 2022.

This policy was reviewed, updated and agreed by the governing body on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Date of next review: November 2024.