



Drugs Education Policy

Reviewed: September 2025 Next Review: September 2026

Drugs Education Policy

At Walter Halls our aim is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

The five outcomes are universal ambitions for every child and young person, whatever their background or circumstances. Improving outcomes for all children and young people underpins all our work. The outcomes are mutually reinforcing. Children learn and thrive when they are healthy, safe and engaged; and the evidence shows clearly that educational achievement is the most effective route out of poverty.

In response to the 2017 Drugs Strategy, the school is committed to a healthy, preventative environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances ie medicines: tobacco and alcohol) - by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances is condoned.

The first concern in managing drugs and drugs incidents, is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils

We wish to continuously work towards being a DrugAware School in all aspects of school life, meeting our responsibilities toward delivering the 2017 Drugs Strategy, providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares pupils for the choices they may be required to make in a drug-using world.

This policy was written using the Drugs Strategy 2017, DfE/ACPO Drug Advice for School 2012, ADEPIS and Mentor guidance and with additional advice and Local Authority information from the PSHE Advisory Service DrugAware Consultant.

Other policies that relate to the implementation of this policy are:

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Medicines policy

1 Aims and objectives

1.1 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 to become more confident and responsible young people. We wish to continuously work towards being a DrugAware School in all aspects of school life, providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares pupils for the choices they may be required to make in a drug-using world.

1.2 The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral and health 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, as well as a health 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 parents, governors and staff.

2 Education

2.1 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 Drug Aware sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and 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.

2.2 Drugs education forms a part of the statutory Science Curriculum and is also delivered in the context of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. We ensure that opportunities are secured across the curriculum for drugs education and a broad range of up to date resources are available to support this. The Drug Aware programme is based on the needs of young people, gathering information through surveys and discussion. Teaching methods offer a variety of opportunities for active learning and include; circle time, group discussions, role-play and drama. Ground rules are negotiated prior to starting the sessions and pupils' knowledge assessed to ensure the appropriateness of the content. In Year 6 children complete the on-line Dvibe Survey which is anonymous and ensures the programme responds to the children's needs. We endeavour to deliver a minimum entitlement of: 5 hours across KS1 12 hours teacher led drug education across KS2.

2.3 Education concentrates on the drugs most relevant to the age and experiences of the young people such as medicines, tobacco and alcohol. Pupils are encouraged to acknowledge their feelings about other people's drug or alcohol use and to build resilience skills. It is important to maintain confidentiality during discussions but, as in all areas of school life, the safeguarding of a young person is of utmost importance. Sharing

of any information is done sensitively, kept to a minimum and on a strictly need to know basis in order to retain the trust of pupils and parents/carers

Support from visitors

The 2017 Drugs Strategy recognises that visiting providers, specifically police, ex-users or those who use shocking stories, facts or accounts of drugs use are the **least** effective form of education. Whilst the school appreciates the valuable contribution of some outside agencies, it recognises that these visitors should bring 'education-savvy' contributions that support an in-school taught programme from trained teachers. External visits or one-off experiences, not in any wider context, alone does not constitute a complete drug education programme. We believe it is the responsibility of the school to ensure that the contributions made **by visitors** to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject.

We use a verified audit to enable us judge the appropriateness of external providers in line with guidance.

2.4 Children have access to contact numbers for outside support, should they need it. Within school the named support is the Headteacher.

3 The role of the headteacher

3.1 It is the responsibility of the headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. We will audit staff's needs and confidence in relation to delivering effective and up to date drug education and access training as necessary through the Drug Aware Programme to meet these needs.

3.2 The headteacher will liaise with external agencies including the Early Intervention Team Drug Aware Consultant at the Local Authority regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

3.3 The headteacher will monitor the policy and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

4 The role of governors

4.1 Governors have completed the Drug Policy Consultation Survey. The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5 The role of parents

The school acknowledges that parents and carers have the prime responsibility for their child's health. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.

In promoting this objective we:

- consulted parents about the Drug Aware programme by sending the Drug Policy Consultation Survey to all parents via the weekly newsletter. Parents' comments have been used in the development of this policy which is available from the office and on the school website.
- inform parents about the school drugs education practice;
- invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- 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;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- 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.

5.1 Parents should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate. This is recorded on admission forms held in the main office. There is no legal duty which requires teachers to administer medication to children. This is a voluntary role and requires a contract to be signed between the member of staff and parent / carer concerned which is then held in the office. Where necessary, school staff will receive training on specific medical conditions. Information regarding specific medical needs is stored in accessible folders in the relevant classrooms and the staff room so that all staff are aware. Medicines such as asthma inhalers are stored in classrooms, so as to be available should they be needed and should be taken on trips out of school by the appropriate member of staff. No child should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in the refrigerator or labelled secure cupboard in the school office or the relevant classroom for a specific medical condition.

6 Monitoring and review

6.1 The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the DrugsAware programme and comments will be recorded. Governors require the headteacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drug education programme taught in the school.

7 The School Environment

Walter Halls school is committed to providing a healthy and supportive environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances i.e. medicines, tobacco and alcohol) by pupils, staff or visitors is condoned. A no-smoking policy is in place on all parts of the school premises.

The use of alcohol is prohibited within the school boundaries, except for occasional adult functions.

The school environment also applies on trips and residential activities including those outside of normal school hours.

Alcohol, Drugs and Support for Children and Families

We acknowledge that in today's society it may be likely that young people may encounter drugs such as alcohol or cannabis. We will offer a curriculum that reflects children's experiences and does not seek to scare, judge, sensationalise or stereotype in relation to substances, opting instead for a pro-health choice approach through PSHE.

In addition we will provide discrete support for children affected by substance use in their family, in partnership with specialist agencies.

Community Public Health Nursing Team
CGL 'Journey' Education Link Worker Service
Explore Family (for those affected by parental or family use)

Referral forms and information on these services are at:
<http://www.nottinghamdrugaware.co.uk/supportyp.php#agencies>

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other drug-using equipment are found discarded in the school premises. A sharps bin is available to clear up found sharps. Similarly, if illicit substances are found or confiscated these will be safely stored and arrangements made with the police for their safe disposal.

The Headteacher is permitted by law to authorise personal and property searches for drugs if there are reasonable suspicions that they are being concealed.

The police will be involved in an advisory capacity where serious incidents occur but the school will deal with minor incidents internally as advised by the ACPO guidance. As a school, we can have a role in early help with young people affected by drug use.

Parents will be informed of incidents unless there is a reason not to (such as an ongoing investigation or a safeguarding concern).

Smoking:

A no-smoking policy has been developed and accepted by staff and governors. This policy will be in line with the required workplace smoke free policy (available from the NCC website) The policy states that smoking is prohibited on any part of the school premises.

Alcohol:

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community, including visitors, is also prohibited except for occasional adult functions out of school hours. This is with the prior permission of the school's management.

Transitions

Advisory note: Evidence shows that both Transition and Permanent Exclusion significantly raise the probability of involvement in substances for already vulnerable students. If drugs are already involved in this scenario then the concern is particularly high.

If a pupil is excluded or involved in a managed move, or if they have known issues around substances (either their own or family), this will be addressed in their transition plans and assisted by the CGL Journey Education Link Worker

Information sharing

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils and parent/carers will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and will Drugs be necessary for the safeguarding of the young person. The sharing of the information will be done sensitively and on a need to know basis. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of inappropriate information is kept to a minimum.

	NAME	SIGNATURES
Headteacher	Emma Beardah	
Governor	James Sullivan	