



Ryedene Primary and Nursery School

Growing Together to Succeed

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

July 2026

Status: STATUTORY

Frequency of review: Annual

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Policy agreed by Full Governing Body: 16.7.2026

RYEDENE PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL

DRUG POLICY

Definition - What is a Drug?

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we see things and the way our bodies work.

This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs. In line with both national advice and local guidelines, it covers drugs misuse by pupils and adults.

Rationale

Ryedene Primary and Nursery School is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and to discourage the misuse of drugs.

Current research indicates that drug use both legal and illegal is prevalent amongst young people. As part of Ryedene Primary and Nursery School's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate children about drug use. Drugs are a reality in children's lives and schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the risks and consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with fairly, consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned. Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of children with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Purposes

- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug related incidents
- To develop a whole-school approach to drug education in the context of the Personal, Social, Emotional and Health (PSHE) programme of study and the Science curriculum.
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs.
- To have a clear and agreed understanding within the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use.
- To contribute towards establishing an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.

Guidelines

All pupils will follow an integrated drug education programme that is responsive to their needs and relevant to their age, experience and maturity. It will be delivered through the existing curriculum. It will focus on the development of self-esteem and decision-making skills.

The school has a policy and procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Drug education

a) Science

Under the National Curriculum all schools should teach the following: Key Stage 2: pupils will be taught to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function

b) PSHE

The school addresses drug use at the appropriate level in all key stages in order to respond to local needs and ensure pupil safety. The school follows the Cambridgeshire Primary Personal Development Programme.

Methodology and resources

A range of best practice teaching and learning styles are promoted to deliver drug education at Ryedene Primary and Nursery School such as:

- Discussion and interaction between the teacher, the class, a small group and the individual child as appropriate
- Art and design to illustrate learning
- Role play and drama to explore scenarios and outcomes in a safe environment

Staff support and training

Staff are encouraged to discuss any training requirements or needs with the PSHE Co-ordinator or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

Management of drug-related incidents

This policy relates to all buildings and play areas inside the school boundaries and when the school's duties of care responsibilities apply (e.g. school trips). Any drug related incident outside of the school day but within school grounds will be dealt with by the police, but may also incur school sanctions. School rules regarding drug use as outlined below also apply on all school visits and residential activities.

a) Smoking on site

This school is a no smoking site. Any pupils found with smoking related items will have them confiscated and parents will be contacted immediately by telephone, StudyBugs and/or letter. Repeated offences will be dealt with via the school's behaviour policy.

b) Under the influence of alcohol or drugs

I. If a student is not ill but appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol the Parents/Guardians will be contacted and the student taken home.

II. If a student is ill, normal medical procedures will be followed and if necessary an ambulance called. Parents/Guardians will be contacted immediately.

III. After the events described in i and ii above, once the student has recovered, the Parent/Guardian will be invited to a meeting with the Head teacher and class teacher.

IV. If the incident reveals regular drink/drug use, the student and family will be given advice on where to get help. The Designated member of staff would take an active role in monitoring the student's behaviour and attendance. If it is felt there is a significant safeguarding concern, then Social Care will be involved.

c) Carrying alcohol in school

Any pupil caught drinking alcohol or flaunting alcohol in school will have it taken away. Parents/Guardians will be informed immediately

d) Carrying of illegal drugs

This will be dealt with in a similar way to the carrying of alcohol, but the confiscated drugs would be handed over to the police and the pupil kept with the Head teacher until Parents/Guardians could come to collect them. Illegal drugs should be stored in an envelope that is sealed in the presence of a witness. The seal should then be signed by the Head teacher and the witness and stored in the school office. It is not the school's policy to permanently exclude a pupil on the first incident of this kind and all circumstances surrounding the event would be thoroughly investigated before any exclusion (fixed or permanent) would be taken.

e) Dealing in illegal drugs

It would be a very rare event for a pupil to be found dealing illegal drugs on the school site but, should this happen, an immediate permanent exclusion would take place in line with school protocol.

f) Searches

The school will always seek consent and ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused the school will need to consider whether to call the parents and/or the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment and distress.

I. Personal searches

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then police must be called. The police can conduct a personal search if they believe a crime has taken place, or to prevent harm to themselves or others following an arrest.

II. Searches of school property

Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' trays or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always aim to be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search. However, when consent is refused, the school will need to balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk of infringing the individual's privacy without just cause.

III. Searches of personal property

Schools must not search personal property without consent. Where consent is refused, they will need to consider, in the case of the pupils, notifying Parents/Guardians, who may persuade their child to give consent or if they wish to proceed along formal lines calling the police.

After any search involving pupils, Parents/Guardians should normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

Sanctions, up to and including exclusion, will be applied for:

- Possession of any illegal drug with the suspected intention to misuse
- Misuse of drugs on school premises
- Supplying/dealing drugs for the purposes of misuse

Lines of action

If a member of staff is suspicious about drug use or possession, they should contact the Head. If an investigation is needed, the Head teacher will inform the pupil (and if necessary their parents) of what is happening and why. If the allegations are substantiated, the parents of the pupil will be asked to make an appointment with the Head teacher. In the event of the Head teacher being unavailable, a member of the SLT will do this.

Disclosures of out of school drug/alcohol abuse

The school takes incidents of drug and alcohol abuse very seriously and incidents outside of school may also incur school sanctions.

Drug paraphernalia on site

Any drug related paraphernalia found on school site should be disposed of safely using gardening gloves and tongs by a member of staff. All needles should be disposed of in a sharp safe or suitable sealed container. Police should be informed that people are using the site out of hours for drug taking.

Media

Should the media wish a statement about any drug related incidents or drug education; this will be given by the Head teacher alone.

Confidentiality

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to pupils. When a child's safety is at risk child protection procedures will be implemented. Please see our Confidentiality policy.

Staff issues

- a) Staff should not smoke on premises.
- b) All new staff will be advised we are a no smoking school.
- c) From time to time the school may have alcohol on site; it should be stored in the staffroom where pupils do not have access. It cannot be consumed during the school day or while children are on site.

d) If staff have medicines on site, including paracetamol, these should be stored where pupils do not have access to them.

e) Staff who are unfit for work due to either drug or alcohol abuse will be sent home. Persistent abuse will lead to disciplinary action.

This is not just a policy for pupils but applies also to all adults working in or visiting Ryedene Primary and Nursery School.

Conclusion

The welfare of our pupils and staff is of paramount concern and we shall work together with everyone involved with the school to ensure the continued education and well-being of all our children.

All staff and parents will be made aware of the contents of this policy, the implications for them and the education and welfare of pupils.

Additional information

This policy links with Ryedene Primary and Nursery School's other school policies:

Equal Opportunities, Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Administration of Medicines, Emergency Plan and Smoking.

The policy will be reviewed annually.

Date: July 2026

Review Date: July 2027