



# Rushey Mead Primary School

## Drug Policy

<b>Policy Date:</b>	January 2024	<b>Version: 1</b>	
<b>Policy Review Date:</b>	January 2027	Headteacher: Nitash Odedra	<i>N. Odedra</i>
<b>Ratified by Governing Body:</b>			
Chair of Governors: Sue Welford		Insert Signature	<i>Sue Welford</i>

## **Rationale**

At Rushey Mead Primary School we acknowledge that drugs affect all communities in modern society. We have a moral and legal obligation to the children in our care to address this issue and to ensure that our children grow up in a safe but informed environment.

## **Purposes**

Through this policy we aim to:

- Make sure that all staff follow a consistent approach in dealing with, and teaching about drugs.
- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.

## **Guidelines**

We will;

- Inform pupils, and staff about the risks and consequences of drug misuse, including alcohol, tobacco and solvents-where appropriate.
- Teach young people from Foundation upwards, the skills needed to resist pressure from their peers.
- Teach children that all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.
- Increase pupil's knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol abuse and drug abuse.
- Drug education is an important part of Health Education and for pupils. It is important to stress the distinction between drugs which help our bodies and drugs which are harmful.

## **Additional Guidance**

### **LA Policy Statement for Drugs**

The past decade has seen an increase in the prevalence of drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills, which enable students to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others, is of vital importance. The ability to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of drugs should be part of a broad and balanced health education curriculum.

### **Elements of the School Drugs Education Programme**

The aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum and through extra curricular activities.

### **Methodology (Teaching/Learning Styles)**

A wide range of teaching methods may be used including discussions, role-play, case studies and other creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues. The schemes can be enhanced by a visit from the school nurse or the local beat police constable.

### **How We Handle A Drug Related Incident**

Statement of Principles on Drug use and misuse:

This School condones neither the misuse of drugs nor the illegal supply of these materials.

This School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.

In this School the Head Teacher and Governing Body takes the final decision on any response to an incident in close consultation with all or some of:

- Senior Management Team.
- LA Advisor.
- Other Agencies.
- School Health Service.
- The Police (Drugs Squad).

The welfare and best interests of the young person will always be taken into account and balanced against the needs of the whole School Community in dealing with any drugs related incident. Rushey Mead Primary School believes that in cases of substance misuse of substances, it is the behaviour, not the person, which should be seen as unacceptable.

### **Procedures**

The School can experience a variety of drug related incidents including:

- Children asking questions about drugs in class.
- Children talking about their use of drugs.
- Children or Staff finding drug paraphernalia on the School premises.
- Children bringing drugs into School.
- Use of drugs by children on the School premises.
- Information from children or their parents or siblings about use of drugs in the family.

Where a member of Staff encounters a DRI (Drugs Related Incident) their action should be guided by the following:

- 1 Staff looking after children under the age of 16 are assumed to be acting in "loco parentis" and therefore have a duty to act as a responsible and wise parent.
- 2 The well being of the child is of paramount importance. A recognised person in first aid should be consulted. Keep any evidence that may assist in identifying substances (including vomit) and ensure this is made available to health professionals.
- 3 Remove any dangerous substances or items.
- 4 If a student(s) is found in possession of substances suspected of being a controlled drug, the member of staff should remove the substance and lock it away in the presence of a witness.
- 5 Gather evidence that may not be available later.
- 6 Make a brief written record of the incident.
- 7 Report the incident as soon as practically possible and if requested may need to complete part A of DRI form, this will be given to you if needed.

The Head Teacher will determine what further action needs to be taken i.e.

- to interview students
- gather further evidence
- inform parents
- inform the LA
- inform police

Each case will be assessed on its own particular circumstances. The Head Teacher will, if further action is necessary, complete part B of the DRI form. An action plan may be drawn up in consultation with the student, her/his parents and any appropriate outside support agency aimed at making available the necessary help (e.g. counselling, medical, education, discipline).

Exclusions or sanctions may be necessary. Consideration to be given to the likely consequence for the individual, balanced against the needs of the whole School Community.

The police will always be informed if illegal substances are being sold in or near the School.

Refer any enquiries from parents, outside agencies and the media to the Head Teacher.

Where a student has been involved in a drug related incident the School will endeavour to secure appropriate care and support to the student and the family. This support will be sought from:

- Management Team.
- School Health Services.
- Social Services - (Child Protection).
- Other agencies.

### **Dissemination of the Policy**

Full details of this policy and the content of the Drugs/Health programme is available to:

- Parents.
- Staff
- Visitors.
- LA Officers.
- OFSTED Inspectors.
- School Health Service Staff.