FROXFIELD
CE SCHOOL

Review Cycle:-	Every two years	Date of Next Review:-	September 2028
Approver:- Chair of Governors	Signed:- Date:- September 2026	Approver:- Head Teacher	Signed:- Date:- September 2026

Froxfield CE Primary School and Pre-School

Drugs Education and Drug-Related Incidents Policy

1. Definition – What is a Drug?

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way a person feels, the way they perceive things or the way their body functions.

For the purposes of this policy, the term **drug** includes:

- medicines and prescribed drugs;
- over-the-counter medicines;
- alcohol;
- tobacco and nicotine products;
- vaping products and e-cigarettes;
- solvents and other substances which may be misused;
- illegal drugs and controlled substances; and
- other substances which may be harmful when misused.

This policy covers drug-related issues involving pupils, staff, parents, visitors and other adults when they are within the school's care or responsibility.

The policy applies throughout the school premises, including the playground and other outdoor areas, and whenever the school is exercising its duty of care, including educational visits, residential visits and school-related activities.

2. Rationale

Froxfield CE Primary School is committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of every member of our school community.

Our Christian vision places **love, courage and respect** at the heart of school life. We seek to develop children who respect themselves and others, have the courage to make safe and healthy choices, and understand their responsibilities towards themselves, others and God's world.

We recognise that children grow up in a world in which they may encounter medicines, alcohol, tobacco, vaping, solvents and illegal drugs. Although drug misuse may not be a significant feature of the immediate school community, pupils need age-appropriate knowledge and skills to keep themselves safe and to make informed choices.

We therefore have a responsibility to:

- educate children about drugs and the risks associated with their use and misuse;
- promote healthy lifestyles and positive choices;
- develop children's confidence, self-esteem, resilience and decision-making skills;
- provide clear and consistent procedures for responding to drug-related incidents;
- safeguard children and adults from harm;
- work constructively with parents and carers;
- seek appropriate external support where necessary; and
- respond fairly and proportionately to drug-related incidents.

Drug misuse by any member of the school community cannot be condoned. However, our response will be informed by the circumstances of the individual involved, the nature of the substance or incident, safeguarding considerations and the need to protect the wider school community.

3. Aims and Purposes

The purposes of this policy are:

- to provide clear procedures for the management of drug-related incidents;
- to promote a consistent approach across the whole school;
- to provide age-appropriate drug education through the curriculum;
- to develop pupils' knowledge, confidence, resilience and decision-making skills;
- to help pupils understand the potential physical, emotional, social and legal consequences of drug use and misuse;
- to ensure that medicines are managed safely in accordance with the school's Supporting Medical Needs arrangements;
- to provide clear expectations for staff, parents, visitors and pupils;
- to safeguard pupils where drug or alcohol misuse may indicate wider welfare concerns;
- to work in partnership with parents and carers and, where appropriate, external agencies; and
- to maintain a safe environment in which children can learn and flourish.

4. Scope of the Policy

This policy applies:

- to all pupils, including children attending the pre-School;
- to all staff, governors, volunteers and other adults working within the school;
- to parents, carers and visitors while on school premises;
- during school hours and whenever pupils are under the school's care;
- on school trips, residential visits and other educational activities; and
- where appropriate, to relevant incidents occurring outside school where there is a safeguarding or behavioural impact on the school community.

School rules relating to drugs, alcohol, smoking and vaping apply equally during educational visits and residential activities.

5. Drug Education

Froxfield CE Primary School provides an integrated programme of drug education appropriate to the age, maturity and needs of pupils.

Drug education is primarily delivered through:

- the **Science curriculum**;
- **Relationships, Health and Sex Education (RHSE)**;
- PSHE and wider personal development;
- safeguarding education;
- collective opportunities to develop children's understanding of healthy choices, responsibility and respect; and
- responses to particular issues or circumstances affecting pupils.

Drug education will not be delivered in isolation. It will form part of our wider work to develop healthy lifestyles, emotional wellbeing, resilience, self-esteem and safe decision-making.

Teaching will be sensitive to children's ages and experiences and will take account of the needs of individual pupils.

6. Curriculum Content

Early Years and Key Stage 1

At an age-appropriate level, pupils will learn about:

- keeping their bodies healthy and safe;
- medicines and why medicines should only be taken when given by a trusted adult;
- the difference between things that are helpful and harmful to our bodies;
- the importance of telling a trusted adult if they are worried about something;
- basic awareness that some substances can be dangerous if they are not used correctly.

Children will not be given unnecessary information about illegal drugs which is inappropriate for their age.

Key Stage 2

As pupils mature, teaching will develop their understanding of:

- medicines and safe use;
- alcohol and its effects;
- tobacco and nicotine;
- vaping and the risks associated with vaping;
- the effects of drugs on the body and brain;
- legal and illegal drugs;
- the risks associated with taking substances which have not been prescribed or obtained safely;
- peer pressure and strategies for responding to pressure;
- making safe and informed decisions;
- seeking help and support;
- the potential consequences of drug misuse; and
- the importance of resilience, self-respect and respect for others.

Drug education will be delivered in a factual, balanced and age-appropriate way. It will not seek to create fear but will ensure that pupils have the knowledge and skills necessary to make safe choices.

7. Methodology and Resources

A range of teaching and learning approaches may be used, including:

- discussion between teacher and class;
- small-group and paired discussion;
- individual reflection;
- stories and scenarios;
- role play and drama;
- art and creative activities;
- age-appropriate videos and other resources;
- problem-solving and decision-making activities; and
- opportunities to practise strategies for dealing with pressure and unsafe situations.

Teachers will use resources which are appropriate to the age and developmental stage of the pupils and which reflect current expectations for safeguarding and health education.

8. Medicines

Medicines prescribed for individual pupils will be managed in accordance with the school's **Supporting Medical Needs Policy**.

Medicines must not be shared between pupils.

Children must not bring medicines. Where any medication is needed for a child this must be handed to the office by a parents, who will be required to complete the appropriate form.

Medicines, including over-the-counter medicines, must be stored securely and administered only in accordance with the school's agreed procedures.

Medicines brought into school by staff for their own use must be kept securely and inaccessible to pupils.

9. Smoking and Vaping

Froxfield CE Primary School is a **no-smoking and no-vaping site**.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted:

- anywhere within the school buildings;
- anywhere within the school grounds;
- at the school gates where this would conflict with the school's expectations for a smoke-free environment;
- during school trips or activities; or
- by staff or volunteers while supervising pupils.

This applies to cigarettes, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes and associated products.

Pupils found in possession of cigarettes, tobacco, vapes or vaping-related products will have the item confiscated where appropriate and parents/carers will be informed.

Repeated incidents will be managed under the school's Behaviour Policy and may also raise safeguarding concerns.

10. Alcohol

Pupils must not bring, consume or distribute alcohol on school premises or during school activities.

If alcohol is found in a pupil's possession, it will be removed and parents/carers will be informed.

Staff must never attend work or undertake their duties while impaired by alcohol.

11. Illegal Drugs and Controlled Substances

Pupils must not possess, use, supply, distribute or attempt to sell illegal drugs or other controlled substances on school premises or during school activities.

Where a substance suspected to be an illegal drug is found:

1. The pupil will be kept safe and supervised.
2. The Headteacher, or another senior member of staff in their absence, will be informed immediately.
3. Parents/carers will normally be contacted.
4. The substance will not be handled unnecessarily.
5. The police will be contacted where appropriate.
6. The substance will be retained securely pending collection or advice from the police.
7. The circumstances of the incident will be investigated.
8. Safeguarding considerations will be assessed.
9. Appropriate action will be taken under the school's Behaviour and Safeguarding policies.

Any allegation of supplying, distributing or dealing in illegal drugs will be treated as a serious safeguarding and behaviour matter and may be referred to the police.

12. Suspected Drug-Related Incident

If a member of staff becomes concerned that a pupil may be involved in drug use, possession or supply, they must inform the Headteacher or Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.

Staff should:

- remain calm;
- avoid making assumptions;
- avoid questioning the child unnecessarily;
- record factual information;
- report concerns promptly; and
- follow the school's safeguarding procedures where appropriate.

The Headteacher/DSL will determine the appropriate response, which may include:

- speaking with the pupil;
- contacting parents/carers;
- considering whether a safeguarding referral is necessary;
- seeking advice from relevant external agencies;
- contacting the police; and/or
- applying appropriate school sanctions.

13. If a Pupil Appears to be Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

If a pupil appears to be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or another substance, the school's first priority will be the child's **health and safety**.

If the pupil is unwell or there is concern about their immediate health:

- normal emergency and medical procedures will be followed;
- first aid will be provided where appropriate;
- emergency medical assistance will be sought where necessary;
- an ambulance will be called if required; and
- parents/carers will be contacted immediately.

If the pupil is not medically unwell but appears to be under the influence, the Headteacher/DSL will assess the situation and contact parents/carers.

The child will remain supervised and will not be allowed to leave school alone.

Following the incident, the school may arrange a meeting with the parents/carers to consider:

- what has happened;
- whether there are any safeguarding concerns;
- whether further support is required;
- whether there are concerns about repeated substance use; and
- what action should be taken to support the child's welfare.

14. Disclosure of Drug or Alcohol Use Outside School

A pupil may disclose that they, a family member or another person has used drugs or alcohol outside school.

Staff must listen calmly and take the disclosure seriously.

Staff must not promise confidentiality.

Any information which suggests that a child may be at risk of harm must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

The school will consider whether information needs to be shared with parents/carers or external agencies in accordance with safeguarding procedures.

Where appropriate, the school may provide information about sources of advice and support.

15. Searches

Any search of a pupil must be carried out in accordance with current statutory guidance.

Staff should not routinely conduct personal searches of pupils.

Where there is a reasonable concern that a pupil may possess an item which presents a risk to safety or is prohibited by school rules, the Headteacher or authorised member of staff will consider the appropriate course of action.

Where a search is necessary:

- the pupil will be treated respectfully;
- the reasons for the search will be explained where appropriate;
- the search will be carried out in accordance with current statutory requirements;
- unnecessary embarrassment or distress will be avoided;
- another adult will be present where required; and
- parents/carers will normally be informed following a search involving a pupil.

Staff must never place themselves or pupils at unnecessary risk when dealing with suspected illegal substances.

Where police involvement is appropriate, the police will be contacted.

16. Searching School Property

The school may search school property, such as desks, trays or other areas belonging to the school, where there is reasonable cause to believe that drugs or other prohibited items may be stored there.

Any search will be carried out proportionately and in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and current statutory guidance.

17. Drug-Related Paraphernalia Found on Site

If drug-related paraphernalia or an unidentified substance is found on school premises, it must **not be handled unnecessarily**.

Staff should:

- prevent pupils from accessing the item;
- keep pupils away from the immediate area;
- inform the Headteacher/DSL;
- seek appropriate advice;
- contact the police where appropriate; and
- arrange for safe disposal or removal in accordance with appropriate health and safety advice.

Particular care must be taken with needles, syringes or other potentially contaminated items.

Staff should not attempt to dispose of needles or other hazardous items unless they have been appropriately trained and it is safe to do so.

Where there is evidence that people are using the school site for drug taking outside school hours, the school will consider informing the police and/or other relevant agencies.

18. Sanctions

Appropriate sanctions, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, may be applied for:

- possession of an illegal drug or controlled substance;
- possession of substances with the intention of misuse;
- use or misuse of drugs on school premises;
- supplying or attempting to supply drugs;
- possession or use of alcohol;
- possession or use of tobacco or vaping products;
- bringing drug-related paraphernalia onto the school site; or
- other behaviour associated with drug misuse.

The school will always consider the individual circumstances and safeguarding needs of the pupil.

Permanent exclusion will only be considered where the circumstances meet the relevant statutory requirements and following a full consideration of the individual circumstances.

19. Staff and Other Adults

This policy applies to all adults working in or visiting Froxfield CE Primary School.

Staff must not:

- smoke or vape on the school site;
- consume alcohol while responsible for pupils;
- attend work while impaired by alcohol or drugs;
- possess illegal drugs on school premises;
- supply or distribute illegal drugs; or
- place pupils at risk through inappropriate use of substances.

Staff who are suspected of being unfit to work because of alcohol or drug use will not be permitted to undertake duties where this would place pupils or others at risk.

The Headteacher will respond in accordance with the school's employment procedures, safeguarding procedures and relevant disciplinary processes.

Where a concern relates to the Headteacher, the Chair of Governors will be informed and the school's appropriate procedures followed.

20. Confidentiality

Staff cannot promise a pupil absolute confidentiality.

Children will be helped to understand that information may need to be shared where there is a concern about their safety or the safety of another person.

Any drug-related disclosure which raises a safeguarding concern will be dealt with in accordance with the school's **Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies**.

Information will be shared only with those who need to know, in accordance with safeguarding and information-sharing requirements.

21. Parents and Carers

Froxfield CE Primary School recognises the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers.

Parents/carers will normally be contacted where their child is involved in a drug-related incident.

The school will seek to:

- communicate openly and sensitively;
- avoid unnecessary judgement;
- explain the school's expectations;
- consider the child's welfare;
- identify appropriate sources of support; and
- work collaboratively to reduce the likelihood of further incidents.

Where sharing information with a parent/carer could place a child at increased risk of harm, safeguarding procedures will take precedence.

22. School Trips and Residential Visits

This policy applies to all school trips, residential visits, sporting events and other activities organised by the school.

Pupils must not possess or use alcohol, tobacco, vapes, illegal drugs or other prohibited substances during school visits.

Staff responsible for trips will ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for:

- medicines;
- medical emergencies;
- safeguarding;
- supervision; and
- responding to suspected drug or alcohol-related incidents.

Any serious incident will be reported to the Headteacher and managed in accordance with the school's safeguarding, behaviour and emergency procedures.

23. Media Enquiries

Any media enquiry relating to drugs, alcohol, vaping or a drug-related incident involving the school should be referred to the **Headteacher**.

Staff should not make statements to the media on behalf of the school.

The Headteacher will seek appropriate advice from the Local Authority where necessary.

24. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher will monitor the implementation of this policy and ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities.

Drug-related incidents will be recorded and reviewed where appropriate to identify:

- recurring issues;
- safeguarding concerns;
- curriculum needs;
- training requirements; and
- opportunities to strengthen preventative work.

The policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are significant changes to legislation, statutory guidance or local arrangements.

25. Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies;
- Behaviour Policy;
- Supporting Medical Needs Policy;
- Health and Safety Policy;
- First Aid Policy;
- Educational Visits Policy;
- RHSE/PSHE curriculum documentation;
- Equality Policy; and
- Staff Code of Conduct.