

Heatherside Junior School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Date of Policy: January 2026

Next review date: January 2027

This policy covers the teaching of drugs awareness throughout the school. Where this policy refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, vaping, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

This policy applies to all school staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies or individuals working with the school. The policy covers off-site school activities/ residential trips and any situation where a member of staff is responsible for pupils.

Teaching Principles

Whether socially acceptable, medicinal or illegal, children need to be aware of the types of drugs, the potential side effects, and consequences of drug use and misuse.

Aims

- To provide a drug education promoting children's awareness of drugs, and their possible misuse and consequences.
- To encourage a positive self image and attitude in children, enabling them to confidently make safe decisions.
- To prepare children for the responsibilities and pressures of adult life.
- To safeguard the welfare of pupils and staff.

Guidelines

- Drug education is taught within the guidelines of the National Curriculum, PSHE Curriculum and Hampshire County Council Guidance (HCC) Sept 2012.
- Children are taught about different drugs, their use and misuse.
- Children are made aware of the variety of drugs that are in use in today's society where appropriate to their age and experience.
- Children are made aware of different attitudes towards drug use within a moral framework.
- Children explore a range of skills for dealing with peer pressure.
- Children are encouraged to get actively involved in discussions when exploring drug related scenarios.
- Speakers and drama groups may be invited to support drug education.

Curriculum Delivery

Guidance on teaching methods and curriculum content will be taken from Hampshire County Council's Drugs Planning Guidance File.

Managing Drugs and Alcohol on Site

1. No drugs other than prescribed, or over the counter medicines, are permitted on site. The school has a no smoking or vaping policy.
2. The school will follow the guidelines in the Manual of Personnel Practice for addressing any drug/alcohol related concerns relating to staff members.
3. A senior member of staff will be called should any visitor, including parents, be deemed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs; appropriate action will be taken, including calling outside agencies if necessary.
4. Alcohol may be permitted on site under the following circumstances:
 - As a gift to staff /parents
 - At a community event led by the HSA (Risk Assessments and Licence approval must be in place)
 - Staff celebration outside of school hours

Managing Drugs and Alcohol during off site residential visits

A senior member of staff will be called should any pupil be deemed to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol or drugs; appropriate action will be taken, including calling outside agencies if necessary.

Managing Medicines in School

Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. More detailed information can be found in the Administering of Medicines in School guidelines.