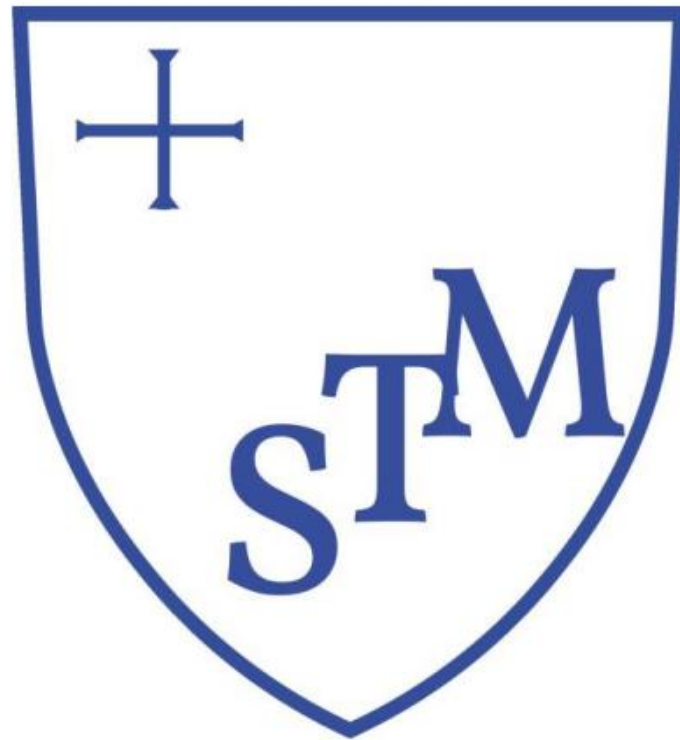


St Martin's C of E Primary School



Drugs Education and Misuse Policy

May 2026

Introduction

St Martin's Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its staff and pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- To support the school's endeavor to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Key roles and responsibilities

Governors:

As part of their responsibilities for the management of the school, the governors have agreed this policy. They will continue their involvement through regular evaluation of it.

Headteacher:

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for providing a safe place of work for all staff and pupils and as such takes responsibility for this policy, its implementation, and for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies in the event of a drug related incident. Pupils who are suspected of being at risk from drugs will be supported and monitored with assistance from relevant agencies.

PSHE Coordinator:

The co-ordinator, together with the Headteacher have a responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. The PSHE coordinator will provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to drug education. They are responsible for identifying and providing good quality resources and in-service training.

Parents and Carers:

Parents and carers are encouraged to support the school's drug education programme. They are responsible for ensuring that guidelines relating to medication in school are followed.

Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any incident that could result in potential harm to their child. This can be a very sensitive issue for parents, and therefore, it will be handled with care and consideration. The Headteacher will consider if there are any special circumstances, which may temper this right. The child protection service may be contacted in the first instance and advice sought (see school's Safeguarding Children policy/procedures).

All Staff:

Drug prevention is a whole school issue. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they be called upon to deal with a drug related incident. This includes lunchtime supervisors, care taker and cleaning staff. If they have any queries or training requirements these should be made known to the Headteacher. The caretaker regularly checks the school premises – any substances or drug related items found will be recorded and reported to the Headteacher and dealt with in accordance with this policy.

Inclusive definition of drugs

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Rationale/key principles

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management.

In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social status, their uses and effects.

Boundaries, including relevance of the policy to school trips and visits

The legal definition of premises of the school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles or any venue managed by the school at the time of e.g. premises of a school trip or visit. The policy will also relate to pupils use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

Drug Education

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE) programme. At our school, we use Kapow Primary to deliver our PSHE curriculum.

Kapow PSHE is designed as a whole-school approach, with carefully sequenced lessons that are age-appropriate and build progressively from Year 1 to Year 6. Drug education is taught within the Health and Wellbeing strand, ensuring consistency and progression across all year groups.

The Health and Wellbeing strand covers two main areas of health:

- **Emotional and mental wellbeing**, including understanding feelings, managing emotions, developing healthy friendships, staying safe, building resilience and knowing when and how to seek help.
- **Physical health**, including healthy lifestyles, personal hygiene, nutrition, physical activity, rest, medicines, drugs and alcohol, safety awareness and basic first aid.

Through this strand, pupils learn that health is a broad and interconnected concept. Drug education within Kapow PSHE supports children to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to make safe, informed and responsible choices, understand the risks associated with medicines, drugs and alcohol, and know how to keep themselves and others safe.

All teaching is inclusive, promotes respect and reflects statutory guidance, ensuring pupils are well prepared for the challenges they may face both now and, in the future.

Content

Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity. Children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, vapes, alcohol and other drugs. In line with these proposals, drug education will be taught as part of PSHE.

This will be either within class topics or be specifically taught as and when appropriate.

The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- practise decision making skills.
- become aware of peer pressure.
- develop assertiveness skills.
- consider the consequences of risk taking.
- learn how to access sources of help and information.
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Managing drug related incidents

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Routine arrangements

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

Alcohol: No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. If alcohol is donated to school for raffle prizes, it must be kept in a locked cupboard. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.

Tobacco and Vapes: The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking or vaping materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.

Solvents: The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols. (Only exception permitted are inhalers to treat asthma).

Illegal drugs: No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours or reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The school's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole. The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Procedures:

Medical emergencies: If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

Hearsay/Rumour: Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteachers and Safeguarding officer on CPOMS, who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teacher's concerns to be compiled.

Suspicious Behaviour: Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged on a record of concern form so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

Finding substances: If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval .
- The size and appearance of the substance.
- The names of those concerned.
- The action taken.

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container

for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

Searching: Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteachers, or her representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies. Staff should not search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance

Finding Drugs: If children are found in possession of tobacco, vapes, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken. In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount. In all instances:

- Separate the child involved from the rest of the group.
- Decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare.
- Inform parents. Supply of illegal substances It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

Recording: All incidents will be recorded on CPOMS.

Confidentiality: Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them notwithstanding any illegal / controlled substances. However, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible, enable the pupil to be involved in the process.

Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their information may implicate others.

Monitoring arrangements: This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing body.

