

Astley Primary School **Drugs Education Policy**

1 Introduction

1.1 Astley Primary School is committed to investing in our pupils' health and well being. Therefore, the school community is protected, supported and educated regarding drug related issues. The children are encouraged to respect their bodies and exercise control over what goes into them in an informed and health promoting manner.

1.2 The school policy provides a clear picture of our approach to drug education and the management of drug related incidents and provides a secure framework within which school staff can work. We will ensure a balanced approach to drug education within the context of and promoting a healthy lifestyle. This will be delivered within the context of Life Skills, and the school's equal opportunities policy. The policy takes full account of the DFEE guidance 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' (2005)

2 Policy Context

This policy was developed based on local and national information. Community involvement in its development was achieved through the inclusion of staff and parent governors in the consultation process.

This policy stands alongside other school policies, such as the Life Skills policy and information found in the school's information for parents on medicines in school, behaviour, child protection and school visits.

3 Definitions

Our school uses the term 'drug' to include any substance which, when introduced into the body, creates a change in perception and/or mood and/or how the body functions e.g. alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents.

4 The Drugs Education Programme

The overall aims of the drug education programme are to:

- Help pupils make informed decisions about drugs and deal effectively with peer pressure.
- Develop rules for, and ways of, keeping safe.
- Increase knowledge and understanding of legal and illegal drugs, and how these relate to personal health.
- Enable pupils to identify effective and trustworthy sources of information, help and support.

- Understand the risks and consequences associated with legal and illegal drugs.
- Develop self confidence, assertiveness and self esteem

Educate pupils in a caring and safe environment where their questions and concerns are answered.

Drugs education is delivered in the manner appropriate to the age and development of the children, and is taught through focused teaching sessions, and occasionally other areas such as literacy, assemblies or school events. It is delivered as part of a whole school approach in partnership with all members of the school community. This will be delivered by staff and may be enhanced by outside speakers where appropriate. Drug Education objectives can be found within the school's Life Skills scheme of work.

5 Working with the Community

Whenever necessary, appropriate and possible the school will seek to work in partnership with the local community, parents, outside agencies and relevant authorities in areas considered within this policy.

Parents will be informed regarding significant issues through newsletters and other communications including parents meetings with invited guest speakers if necessary.

6 Involving Parents/Carers and Governors

We value the important role that parents/carers and governors play within our school community. We are committed to ensuring that they:

- Are consulted about the policy and are invited to view and comment on it.
- Are consulted and informed about the drug education programme

Have the opportunity to attend a drug awareness session, and have access to up to date factual information on drug related issues.

7 Managing Drug Related Incidents:

7.1 Other than the legitimate use of medicines, it is against the school rules for children to bring any other drugs onto the school site. A drug related incident is likely to concern the inappropriate use of medicine or use of tobacco and alcohol by children, but may also include drug related incidents involving parents.

Drug related incidents may take many forms including:

- Inappropriate clothing (e.g. T-shirts or jewellery with drug related logos and images)
- Drug related graffiti
- Bringing drugs onto school premises
- Suspicion/rumour or definite evidence of (legal or illegal) drug use or supply involving pupils.
- Pupils being under the influence of drugs

Pupils sharing their concerns about their own or a family members' use of drugs with a member of staff

Suspicion/rumour or definite evidence of parents/carers experiencing problematic drug use.

7.2 The school believes that it is in the best interest of all concerned to inform parents/carers of any reported drug related incidents, except for when the school believes this action would place the child at serious risk from the parent/carer. As in all circumstances, where a pupil is at risk of abuse or neglect, the child's protection procedures would be applied or referral to the Social Services Department for a Child in Need Assessment.

The school will take full account of the circumstances when considering the role and involvement of the police. However, if illegal drugs are found on the school premises, the local police will be informed.

8 Disposal of needles and syringes

Needles and syringes will be handled with extreme care and only by authorised personnel wearing suitable protective clothing. They will be placed into a sealed box specifically for their storage and are collected within 10 days by the Council. The pupils are regularly informed that should they find suspicious items on the school premises, the rule is do not touch, tell a member of staff.

9 Administration and Storage of Medicines

All members of staff at Astley Primary School are committed to encouraging the health and well being of our pupils. Medication will only be administered where prescribed, and after a consultation and agreement with parents/carers. All prescribed medication is held in the office and stored in a location with limited access. Members of staff ensure that their own medication is kept in a safe place.

10 Policy Review

It will be reviewed March 2027 unless circumstances demand an earlier review.

Signed: E Harrold

Date: March 2026

Review: March 2027