

KILLYLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

APRIL 2022

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1. RATIONALE

Children and young people are exposed to messages about drug use from an early age. Their exposure to the use and misuse of drugs may come through parents / guardians, older siblings, friends, television, the media and popular music.

Killylea Primary School does not condone the misuse of drugs but recognises that there has been a considerable increase in the abuse of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland. Drug misuse appears to be affecting an ever younger population and the so-called 'recreational' use of drugs can lead to a dangerous acceptance of illegal and harmful drug misuse as part of everyday life.

We believe that this school has a vital whole school preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include a drugs education programme as part of the statutory curriculum for Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU). It also links to our Pastoral Care, PE, Health and Safety, Child Protection, Anti-bullying, Positive Behaviour and Critical Incident policies.

This school sees its role as that of a caring community committed to the physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils and staff. We want our pupils to make informed and responsible decisions about drugs, by increasing their knowledge and by developing in them appropriate values, attitudes, skills and aspirations that bring about resilience in young people. However, we recognise that drug misuse is a whole community issue and that schools alone cannot solve the problem; the school is only one of a number of groups and agencies which must play a part in the education of young people, and we make use of their expertise where possible in the delivery of the programme.

2. ETHOS

In Killylea Primary School the welfare and safety of our pupils is paramount. We feel that our drugs education programme will promote that sense of wellbeing, as well as the safety and security of the pupils within our school.

This policy is based on the guidance provided by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland from the following documents:

- DE Circular 2015/23 Drugs Guidance
- CEA Drugs Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland (Revised Edition 2015)
- http://ceea.org.uk/sites/default/files/docs/curriculum/area_of_learning/pdmu/drugs/Drugs_Guidance_for_Schools.pdf

Killylea Primary School promotes the rights of the child based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child. This policy therefore takes into account Article 3 which states:

'The best interests of the child must be a top priority in everything we do.'

3. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this policy, the term drug and substance include any product that, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the body works or how a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks. As well as everyday products such as tea and coffee, substances include;

- alcohol, tobacco and tobacco-related products, including nicotine replacement therapy

- (NRT) and electronic cigarettes;
- over-the-counter medicines such as paracetamol and cough medicines;
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, painkillers, antidepressants, antipsychotics, inhalers and stimulants such as Ritalin;
- volatile substances such as correcting fluids or thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues and petrol;
- controlled drugs such as cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms, heroin and cocaine; new psychoactive substances (NPS), formerly known as legal highs*, which contain one or more chemical substances that produce similar effects to illegal drugs and are sold as incense, salts or plant food marked 'not for human consumption' to avoid prosecution; and other substances such as amyl or butyl nitrite (known as poppers) and unprocessed magic mushrooms

*The term 'legal high' is no longer used as it is misleading. The public perceived that 'legal' meant safe, but as these substances are not regulated there is no way of knowing what chemicals they contain.

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide a clear statement of the school's view on drug education.
- To ensure a consistent approach from staff to drug education and in the handling of drug related incidents.
- To safeguard good practice in the future.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse.
- To provide a drug education programme which:
 - Develops pupils' self-esteem and promotes positive attitudes in their relationships with others;
 - Gives pupils opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use misuse of drugs, including tobacco, tobacco related products, alcoholic, e-cigarettes, volatile substances etc. within the context of a healthy lifestyle; and
 - Helps pupils develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences.
- To provide appropriate support and assistance for those pupils affected by drug-related issues.
- To inform parents / guardians of the content of this policy and the procedures to be implemented in the management of incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- To establish an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of all drug or substances.

5. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1 THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The school governors have responsibility for Killylea Primary School and will foster and support the development and on-going review of the Drugs Policy and education programme by collaborating with appropriate staff, pupils and parent / careers. They will facilitate the consultative process where the school community can respond and contribute to the effectiveness and quality of the policy and programme, which the governors will examine and approve prior to their implementation in school.

They will ensure that the policy is referred to in the school prospectus and reviewed at regular intervals. All governors should be fully aware of and one member will be trained to deal with suspected drug-related incidents and their appropriate disciplinary response.

5.2 THE PRINCIPAL

It is the principal's responsibility to determine the circumstances of all incidents, but it is the responsibility of the PSNI to investigate any criminal or suspected criminal offence. In any suspected drug related incident, the principal should contact the parents / carers of those pupils involved. The principal must ensure that in any incident involving a controlled substance there is close liaison with the PSNI. Failure to inform the PSNI of a suspected incident involving controlled drugs is a criminal offence.

After contacting the PSNI, the principal should confine her responsibilities to:

- the welfare of the pupil(s) involved in the incident and the other pupils in the school;
- health and safety during the handling, storage and safe disposal of any drug or drug-related paraphernalia, using protective gloves at all times;
- informing the Board of Governors;
- agreeing any appropriate pastoral or disciplinary response;
- reporting the incident to the EA if appropriate, for example if an incident:
 - is serious enough to require PSNI involvement;
 - requires that a child protection procedure is invoked; or leads to the suspension or exclusion of a pupil; and
- completing a written report and forwarding a copy to the Board of Governors and the designated officer in the EA.

5.3 THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The duties of the Designated teacher for Child Protection will include the oversight and co-ordination of the planning of curricular provision, in compliance with the statutory requirements and liaison with other staff responsible for pastoral care.

The Designated Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination for the school's procedures for handling suspected drugs-related incidents and the training and induction of these procedures with new and existing staff.

The Designated Teacher will act as a contact point for outside agencies that may have to work with the school or with a pupil(s). In the absence of the Designated Teacher, the Deputy Designated Teacher will be available. It is the responsibility of the designated teacher for drugs to take possession of any substance(s) and associated paraphernalia found and complete a factual report.

5.4 ALL STAFF (TEACHING AND NON-TEACHING)

Individual staff members are likely to be the first to encounter a suspected drugs related incident. It is not their responsibility to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. However, they should deal with any emergency procedures, if necessary. Any information, substance or paraphernalia received should be forwarded to the designated teacher. A brief factual report of the suspected incident should be forwarded to the designated teacher [see Appendix 1].

5.5 THE ROLE OF PUPILS

Pupils should not bring into school any prohibited drugs or substances.

Pupils should report to staff, any information that another pupil has suspected drugs or substances in school.

5.6 THE ROLE OF PARENTS / CARERS

All parent / carers should be made aware that the school has a 'Drugs Policy' and how it applies to them and their children. Parents / carers form part of the consultative process.

6. DRUGS EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM

The drugs education programme in Killylea Primary School will be included in teachers' planning and will form part of the curricular area of Personal Development and Mutual understanding (PDMU).

It will also be supported by the pastoral care programme and policy throughout the school and will link with other subject areas such as Religious Educations, health education and PE. When available, the school will use the PSNI to deliver specialised drugs education lessons.

The programme is a preventative one and is pupil centred, delivered through active learning. The aims of the programme are:

- to promote positive attitudes towards personal health;
- to inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse;
- to help pupils acquire skills to resist peer pressure;
- to build up the self-esteem of pupils;
- to help pupils acquire decision making and problem solving skills that will empower them to take responsibility for their own health and safety.

7. RESPONSES IN THE EVENT OF AS SUSPECTED DRUGS-RELATED INCIDENT

Dealing with a suspected incident requires extreme sensitivity on the part of all those involved. All staff should be aware of the procedures for:

- dealing with substances found on the school premises;
- finding / suspecting a pupil / adult of possessing / distributing an illegal substance;
- pupil suspected of having taken drugs in school.

These procedures are outlined in the 'CEA Drugs Guidance for Schools in Northern Ireland (Revised Edition 2015) Section 3: Responding to Drug-related Incidents'.

8. ILLNESS, UNUSUAL OR UNCHARACTERISTIC BEHAVIOUR

Young people's behaviour may be unpredictable and bizarre for many reasons during their time at school. Changes in behaviour may indicate a range of difficulties and problems and may be related to a medical condition, rather than substance misuse. It is, however, important to note that intoxication, physical collapse or unconsciousness can also result from initial experiment with drugs.

Staff should bring any indications of illness, unusual or uncharacteristic behaviour because of suspected substance misuse to the attention of the designated teacher for drugs. They should not make any judgement until they have determined the circumstances surrounding the incident.

Where staff believes a pupil may have taken a substance they suspect is a drug, they should seek medical assistance immediately after following the recommended emergency procedures. The school must inform parents and the PSNI.

9. TAKING POSSESSION OF A SUSPECTED CONTROLLED DRUG AND / OR ASSOCIATED PARAPHERNALIA

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug to protect a pupil from harm and prevent the pupils committing the offence of possession. The teacher should, using appropriate safety precautions, take the suspected substance and any associated equipment and / or paraphernalia to the designated teacher for drugs as soon as possible. They should arrange for its safe storage until the school can hand it over to the local PSNI officer to identify whether it is a controlled substance. School staff should not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance. An adult witness should be present when staff confiscates the substance and the school should keep a record of the details using the school's Drug Incident Report form.

10. AN ALLEGATION OF A SUSPECTED CONTROLLED DRUG-RELATED INCIDENT

10.1 CARRYING OUT A SEARCH

If the designated teacher receives an allegation of possession, she may need to search a pupil's desk or schoolbag, if she has cause to believe it contains unlawful items, including controlled drugs. However, teachers cannot search personal belongings in the desk or locker without consent.

Staff should only search the pupil's personal belongings, including school bag, coat and other items with the pupil's consent. Staff should carry out this search in the presence of the pupil and another adult witness.

If the school suspects pupils of concealing controlled drugs on their person or in their personal belongings, staff should make every effort to encourage them to produce these substances voluntarily. Staff should ask pupils to turn out their pockets or schoolbags. If the pupils refuse, staff should contact their parents or carers and the PSNI to deal with the situation. A member of staff should never carry out a physical search of a pupil, unless there is compelling evidence that the pupil has committed an offence. If staff recovers a substance or object that they suspect has a connection with drugs, they should take possession of it and make a full record using the schools' Drug Incident Report Form.

10.2 POSSESSION, POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO SUPPLY AND SUPPLY OF CONTROLLED DRUGS

Schools must be aware that pupil involvement in suspected controlled drug-related incidents may take several forms. These could include:

- possession;
- possession with intent to supply; and / or
- the supply of controlled drugs.

It is illegal for pupils to be in possession of a controlled drug. If a member of staff comes across a pupil(s) in possession of what they believe or suspect to be a controlled drug, they should immediately attempt to take possession of the substance and escort the pupil(s) to the designated teacher who will deal with the incident as outlined in the school policy.

11. STAFF POLICY ON SMOKING AND ALCOHOL

Killylea Primary School is a smoke (including e-cigarettes) and alcohol free zone. For further information refer to the Health and Safety Executive's website (www.hse.gov.uk). Staff will be provided with information on smoking cessation advice and support, if requested.

The Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 requires employers to protect the health, safety and welfare of employees at work. However, employees also have a legal responsibility to protect their own health and safety and that of their colleagues. For further information, see Employing Authority's Alcohol and Drugs Misuse Policy (TNC 2005/5) at www.deni.gov.uk.

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

Should a pupil reveal any personal drugs information, which puts them or any other pupil at risk, this must be passed on to the designated teacher / principal. Confidentiality can never be guaranteed, as we are responsible for all of the pupils in our school.

13. DISCIPLINARY / PASTORAL CARE RESPONSES

The principal will retain responsibility for deciding how to respond to a particular incident and will take into account factors such as:

- the age of the pupil
- does the pupil admit or deny the allegations?
- is this the first or subsequent offence?
- is the drug legal or illegal?
- quantity of the drug involved?
- what was the pupil's motivation?
- does the pupil know and understand the school policy and school rules?
- where does the incident appear on a scale from possession of a small quantity to persistent supply?
- if illegal supply is suspected, how much was supplied and was the pupils coerced to buy for others, or is there evidence of organised or habitual supply?

At all times the needs of individual pupils will be considered and appropriate intervention and support mechanisms will be put into place. Any sanction imposed will be justifiable in terms of:

- the seriousness of the incident;
- the identified needs of the pupil, other pupils and the community;
- consistency with published school rules;
- consistency with disciplinary actions for breaches of the school rules (e.g. theft, violence and bullying).

14. PROCEDURES FOR USING OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Any visitor providing an input to the drugs education programmes will be given a copy of the 'Drugs Policy'. They will have a clear set of aims and objectives as well as a lesson plan. The teacher will view these to ensure they are appropriate and will remain in class with the visitor.

15. GUIDANCE FOR CONFISCATION AND STORAGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES

Any confiscated drugs or drug-related items should be given to the principal for storage in a locked cabinet in the principal's office and then given to the PSNI.

16. GUIDANCE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Please refer to the school policy on the Administration of Medications. Medication will only be given on school trips and / or residential if the parent / carer has signed a consent form. If the child needs any other medication, he / she will be taken to the nearest hospital.

17. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy, curriculum provision and procedures for handling drug-related issues will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed annually and in particular after a suspected substance-related incident, to take account of changing circumstances and trends in the school and local community. The Designated Teacher will take a lead role in this, involving appropriate members of the school community e.g. Parent Focus Group, School Council, governors.

Use will be made of ETI publication Together Towards Improvement process for self-evaluation, including key questions with quality indicators addressing issues such as pastoral care and safeguarding. As part of this process, the school's drugs policy will identify and address the training needs and support that all staff (teaching and non-teaching) need to implement the policy, as appropriate.

The policy will be ratified by the Board of Governors.

Copies of this policy are available on the school website [www.killyleaps.com/key-information/policies/] or a hard copy may be requested from the school office.

KILLYLEA PRIMARY SCHOOL DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY	
POLICY DATE:	April 2022
PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE:	P Lowry
CHAIRPERSON, Board of Governors, SIGNATURE:	B Atkins
REVIEW DATE [Annually]:	April 2024

Form completed by:

Position: