



Reynolds Cross Vision:

To be the best of the best; to be a place where "Every Individual" really does matter, to maximise independent learning and enjoyment in line with school aims; and to be a, positive, happy and fun learning environment with outstanding features.

Drugs Education Policy

Date adopted: July 2022

Signed: _____
Chair of Governors

Next Review date: May 2025

Signed _____
Head Teacher

Curriculum Coordinator: Dawn Brettell
PSHE Coordinator: Sue Townsend

Introduction

Reynalds Cross School ¹has a responsibility to ensure the health and safety of every pupil and all others involved with the school in any capacity. The misuse of “drugs” on our premises is not tolerated and the school will adhere to the guidelines of this policy to ensure all situations are dealt with swiftly and appropriately.

Aims of the Drugs Education Policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
- To ensure the school’s approach to drugs is clear for staff, governors and parents/carers;
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school;
- To explain our School’s approach to the teaching and learning about drugs;
- To provide information about procedures in response to drug-related incidents.

What is a drug?

For the purpose of this document we have adopted the definition given by the United Nations Office and Drugs and Crime, which states that a “drug” is:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.”
(taken from the DFES Drugs Guidance for Schools Handbook 2004)

This Policy refers to drugs or “substances” in terms of:

- alcohol, illegal drugs (e.g. Cannabis), miscellaneous legal drugs (e.g. caffeine, tobacco), volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents).

Drugs and substances are not permitted on the premises (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), with the exception of:

- a) medication that has been prescribed by a doctor for a specific person, accompanied by written permission to administer in the form of a care plan and stored in a locked container (both in school and in transit), for example: over the counter medicines e.g. laxatives, paracetamol or Buccal Midazolam, Rectal Diazepam, adrenaline – Epi-pens (for treatment of epilepsy), tranquillisers, Ventolin (asthma inhaler);
- b) the limited consumption of alcohol on School premises **after school hours** e.g Friends Of Reynalds Cross and other social events. If young people are present at these out of hours social occasions it is the responsibility of the parent or carer to ensure they are supervised and safe for the duration.

It is not the intention of this Policy to deal with prescribed and over the counter medicines. (Refer to the Administration of Medicines in Schools Policy with regards to the control of these substances)

Drugs Education

Pupils and young people at Reynalds Cross are **entitled** to education with regards to drugs. This, however, **should be realistic and appropriate to their age and ability**. Senior leaders and teachers should carefully consider those aspects of the agreed

¹ Reference to Reynalds Cross school throughout this policy includes all school sites

curriculum that deal with the topic of substance use and misuse in regards to the relevance of the specific pupils it is aimed for.

It is the School's responsibility to ensure pupils develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and therefore, should enable them to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle at a level suitable to their individual needs.

Drugs Education will be addressed by the whole school community as part of a well-planned programme, delivered in a supportive environment where pupils feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary.

PHSE planning may cover aspects of Drugs Education, however it can also be taught across the curriculum where relevant and appropriate as a cross-curricular link. The long term plan is supported alongside schemes of work from "Equals" which includes, though not limited to the following:

Key Stage 2 - Medicines and drugs (2.3a)

Key Stage 3 - Medicines and medication (3.3d)

Key stage 4 - Drugs awareness (4.3d)

The content within these specific modules may be taught out of key stage, for example, some pupils in Key Stage 4 will benefit from recap of those elements contained within the Key Stage 2 scheme of work. The themes of Drugs Education are also covered within the 14-19 Curriculum when suitable to the pupil's developmental stages of learning.

The School also works alongside external agencies (for instance the Nursing Team, Community and Learning Disability Teams and CAMHS/SOLAR) to keep updated of new documentation, teaching approaches and training suitable to our needs.

Roles and Responsibilities

At Reynalds Cross it is the responsibility of all staff to ensure the safety and well-being of our pupils, for instance, in reporting any information regarding the misuse of drugs to their line manager as appropriate, who should take these concerns seriously. In addition, reporting any concerns that they may have regarding any **Child Protection** issues to the School's Designated Members of Staff for Safeguarding (Dawn Brettell-Headteacher; Family Support Worker; Office Manager and² Deputy Head).

The Head Teacher (and staff to whom the role is delegated) is responsible for the co-ordination of arrangements required to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse.

Drug related incidents

Reynalds Cross school has a legal duty of care to act in the best interests of pupils. There is no legal obligation to seek permission before searching a pupil for drugs. In the unlikely event that drugs are found it will usually be in the best interests of a pupil that their parents/carers are informed however it is not a legal requirement to do so. Each case will be assessed individually and child protection and safety will be of prime importance.

Where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised Drugs or the discovery of unauthorised Drugs on the school premises, this will be dealt with appropriately. Temporary possession should be taken of these in the presence of another adult. They should be sealed in a plastic bag with details including the date and time found and handed to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. These will then be handed to the Police to be disposed of appropriately.

Other actions may include:

- discussion, support and education from staff,
- referral to social services (including Duty Assessment and Referral Team – DART or LADO),
- referral to external agencies for support (for example counselling and support for individual children)

Disclosures and Safeguarding

Where a pupil or any other person discloses to a member of staff an inappropriate Drug-related situation, the member of staff should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However they can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. A written record will be made of the disclosure using the approved school's procedures and the Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection is to be informed without delay.

Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy

It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher and Governing Body to ensure that this Policy and the Procedures for dealing with Drug related incidents are regularly updated every year and that they reflect any changing circumstances and trends.

The Curriculum related to Drugs Education at Reynolds Cross and Green Lane is continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented. The induction of new staff will include introduction to this Policy.

References:

Personal Conduct Policy
Behaviour and Safety Policy
Employee Code of Conduct Policy
Whistle Blowing Policy
Dealing with Allegations of Abuse against staff Policy
Disciplinary Policy & Procedures
Medical Conditions in School Policy
No Smoking Policy
[www.gov.uk/government/drug advice for schools](http://www.gov.uk/government/drug-advice-for-schools)
CASCADE website
Drug, alcohol and tobacco education QCA 2003
Drugs; Guidance for Schools DfES 2004