

Crosby Primary School
Drug and Alcohol Policy
Last reviewed Autumn 2024
Next Review Autumn 2025



A drug is any substance other than food, water and oxygen people take to change the way they feel, think or behave (including alcohol). The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable. However, there are instances where other drugs may legitimately be in school:

- Medicines (see medical conditions policy)
- Volatile substances (e.g. solvents): these must be securely stored to prevent inappropriate access or use

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils. In every case of an incident involving drugs, we place the utmost priority in ensuring the safety of pupils and staff, providing first aid for any medical emergencies and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues.

Drug/Alcohol Education

Drug Education is delivered through Science and PSHE. Regular lessons are planned at the appropriate level. Provision is made for vulnerable pupils by assessing individual needs and working with external agencies to give the correct support when appropriate.

Attitudes

Pupils are taught:

- To recognise their worth as individuals by identifying positive things about themselves and their achievements, seeing their mistakes, making amends and setting personal goals.
- To take responsibility for their own actions.
- To consider social and moral dilemmas that they come across in life, (e.g. attitudes towards smoking and alcohol).

Detection

If it is suspected there may be inappropriate drugs in school, the member of staff will ensure that a second adult witness is present. Staff may search children's trays or bags if they believe drugs to be stored there. After any search for drugs/alcohol involving children, the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative, must contact parents/carers. In some cases the police will be contacted. Every effort should be made to persuade the person to hand over any drugs voluntarily. Where the person refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, then the police must be called. The police and school staff can conduct a personal search if they believe a young person is carrying drugs, or to prevent harm to themselves or others.

Responding to drug incidents

Drug incidents may include:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on school premises
- A pupil demonstrating an inappropriate level of knowledge for their age

- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- A pupil is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs
- A pupil displaying behaviours associated with inappropriate drug use

A careful investigation will take place to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident, the needs of those involved and the most appropriate response. If, during the course of the investigation, the school decides that the police should be involved they should cease immediately to enable the police to conduct a full detailed enquiry.

Possible responses include:

- Medical support for the pupil
- Early intervention and targeted prevention
- Referral
- Counselling
- Behaviour support plans
- Inter-agency programmes
- Fixed-period exclusion
- Pastoral support programmes
- A managed move
- Permanent exclusion

Some responses may serve to enforce and reinforce school rules. Any sanctions will always be justifiable in terms of:

- The seriousness of the incident
- The identified need of the pupil and the wider school community
- Consistency with disciplinary action for breaches of other school rules (such as theft, violence, bullying)

Parents/Carers under the influence of drugs/alcohol on school premises

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs/alcohol on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances the designated safeguarding lead should be alerted, and discussion held with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example, asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home. The focus of staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent/carer's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

Staff conduct and drugs/alcohol

Staff misuse/abuse – if this is known or suspected the appropriate North Lincolnshire Council policy and procedures must be followed.

The role of Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, Governors have a key role to play in the development of the school's policy on drugs.

Monitoring and Review

This policy is monitored and reviewed by the Governing Body. Last reviewed Autumn 2024.