

Halfway Nursery Infant School



Drugs Education Policy

Date Policy Written / Updated:	November 2023
Date Policy accepted:	
Date of Next Review:	November 2024
Signed (Headteacher)	
Signed (Chair of Governors)	
Minute Number	

HALFWAY NURSERY INFANT SCHOOL

Drugs Education Policy

Policy Statement

There is a growing public concern concerning drug misuse amongst the young. Recent research shows that the average age of the first misuse of drugs is falling, and the range and accessibility of drugs is expanding. The first use of drugs is no longer common within the secondary school but is now more common in primary school children. Drug misuse affects many widespread communities in the UK including Sheffield, crossing gender, ethnic and social boundaries.

Children and young people are influenced by information and images about drugs from a variety of sources i.e. the media, in the home, and by associating with older children or family members with knowledge of or who use drugs.

The role of the School

Schools have an important role to play in enabling children to make informed and responsible health decisions. The school takes a pro-active stance regarding Drugs Education. We believe that health education is a vital part of the personal and social education of every pupil.

- ❑ Halfway Nursery Infant School condones neither the misuse of drugs or any other substance e.g. alcohol, cigarettes, solvents or prescribed drugs.
- ❑ Halfway Nursery Infant School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well being.
- ❑ Halfway Nursery Infant School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils and through the general ethos of the school will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward, confide in staff and seek support.

Aims

1. To raise awareness of alcohol and drug related health and welfare issues among young children to help them avoid hazards associated with drug consumption.
2. To let young children know that it's acceptable to ask for help with drug related problems that may be adversely affecting their school and home life. To let pupils identify a source of appropriate personal support e.g. confidence to speak with parent or teacher.
3. To enable pupils to make healthy, responsible and informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
4. To provide accurate information about substances and their misuse, to pupils and their parents.
5. To increase pupils understanding about the implications and possible consequences of substance use and misuse.
6. To broaden children's understanding about related health and social issues e.g. crime.

7. To encourage an understanding which breaks down stereotypical ideas of who a substance user might be.

Policy Implementation

The school aspires to fulfil the policy aims through the school's topic cycle and PSHE lessons. The concepts of values and beliefs and protection will be developed by the whole school, and provide an opportunity for Drug Education to be covered. Opportunities to reinforce this learning will arise outside the classroom e.g. assemblies, guest speakers. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the School Nurse, Social Services, the Fire Service, Community Police and the LEA to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with any incidents of substance use and misuse.

The Headteacher, who is also the school Child Protection Liaison Officer, will take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. In addition to liaison with the Governing Body, parents and any other outside agencies, including the media. The Headteacher will ensure that all teachers are adequately supported and trained.

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter that concerns the direction of the school.

Tobacco Restrictions

In accordance with the Sheffield City Councils no-smoking policy on council premises and Halfway Nursery Infant School Smoking Policy. It is the intention of the majority of staff that Halfway Nursery Infant School will be a smoke-free school. Smoking is not allowed on the school premises- building and playgrounds at any time before, during or after the school day. This restriction applies to all visitors to the school e.g. parents/carers, suppliers, supply or temporary staff, governors and contractors.

The following arrangements have been made to inform visitors of the terms of the policy.

- ❑ No smoking signs clearly inform visitors of the policy.
- ❑ Members of staff will inform visitors of the policy when necessary.
- ❑ Letters will be sent home to parents.

Alcohol Restrictions

Alcohol is not to be consumed by teaching or non-teaching staff on any school premises during school hours.

There are two exceptions to this as follows:

- ❑ Staff/Parent Socials – which are usually held after school e.g. HIP group meetings, Retirement Farewells.

- ❑ Summer Fayre – outside school hours usually on a Saturday.

Any alcohol purchased for such events must be stored in a suitable place inaccessible to the children i.e. locked in the staffroom cupboard or in the headteacher's office.

Medicine Restrictions

No other medicines will be taken into or kept in school, apart from those regarded as “life-saving” medicines e.g. asthma inhalers, epipens and allergy medicines such as Piriton. All such medicines must be named and stored in the lock-up cupboard in the staffroom or in the staffroom fridge, as appropriate.

All staff must ensure that any medicines that they are holding/carrying are out of the reach of the children. Such medicines are to be stored on an inaccessible shelf in the stockcupboard or in the lock up cupboard in the staffroom/ Mr Lee's office.

Medicines that need to be administered during school hours will be done so by or under the supervision of a staff member or qualified first aider.

Dealing with Incidents

Should substance misuse involving a pupil occur on school premises, a member of staff will act promptly and follow this procedure:

- ❑ Confiscate the substance.
- ❑ Consult the Headteacher.
- ❑ Take appropriate action e.g. inform the child's parents, seek medical advice.

The school will consider any incident involving substances on an individual basis, and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary to deal with such incidents.

The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken, and aims to deal with each case with confidentiality, respect and appropriate care.