

Tas Valley Church Schools Federation

Drug Education Policy



Formally adopted by the Governing Board of:-	Tas Valley Federation
On:-	
Chair of Governors:-	Diane Perry-Yates
Last updated:-	

Drug Education Policy

Name of school:	Tas Valley Federation
Date of Policy:	Spring 2024
Date of Review:	Spring 2025
Members of staff Responsible:	Senior Leadership Team

1. School Statement

- 1.1 We are committed to investing in our pupil's health and wellbeing because we believe this will support the raising of attainment and progress. Drugs Education is an important issue that is essential and relevant to children in the modern world. Through our approaches to Drugs Education, we seek to develop and enhance life skills which will equip our pupils now and in the future.
- 1.2 This policy promotes practices within the school to reinforce our vision, and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

2. Contents & Organisation of Drug Education

- 2.1 For the purpose of this policy, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave*. Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.
- 2.2 Drugs Education is part of Personal Social and Health and Education (PSHE) and Science Curriculum. It should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- 2.3 Through Drugs Education, we:
 - explore and consider attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users;
 - develop critical thinking as part of decision making;
 - learn to respect and value difference and diversity;
 - explore personal attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- 2.4 Through our Drugs Education, we support pupils to:
 - manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively;
 - manage change;
 - develop self-respect and empathy for others;
 - make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice;
 - explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions and choices in relation to drugs, drug use and drug users;
 - learn how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse;
 - Develop inter-personal skills and self-esteem;
 - play a positive and active role as citizens.
 - maintain a safe and healthy lifestyle based on accurate information about drugs;

- dispel myths about drugs, drug use and drug users;
- learn about their community and the society of which they are a part in relation to drugs, drug use and drug users;
- Developing pupils' understanding of rules and laws.

3. How is Drug education provided?

3.1 Drugs Education is taught as part of the curricula for PSHE and Science. This may also include:

- Other curriculum areas (e.g. Drama, English, etc.);
- Assemblies;
- Pastoral support for pupils who experience difficulties;
- Provision of appropriate information through leaflets and books;
- Delivery in response to specific incidents.

3.2 Continuity and progression will be generated through the adoption of a whole school approach to the planning and delivery of clearly defined and progressive learning objectives covering knowledge, skills and understanding. All pupils will receive regular, timetabled PSHE teaching. PSHE will be taught both as a discrete subject and through other appropriate cross-curricular links.

3.3 PSHE is conducted in a safe learning environment through the use of ground rules and distancing techniques so that pupils are not put on the spot or expected to discuss their own personal issues in class. For example, nobody (teacher or pupil) should be expected to answer a personal question or be forced to take part in a discussion

3.5 School staff will attempt to answer children's questions and concerns in a sensitive, age and development appropriate manner. Individual teachers will use their skill and discretion in these situations and, if necessary, refer to other key staff for advice and support.

3.6 Teachers will also follow the following guidance:

- Teachers will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting;
- If a child's question is inappropriate to address with the whole class, the teacher should acknowledge the question and attend to it later on an individual basis;
- If a question is too personal, the teacher should remind the pupils of the ground rules;
- Teachers will set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that pupils discuss issues in a way that encourages positive participation;
- Pupils may have opportunities to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box. The teacher will have time to prepare answers to questions before the next session, and can choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate to address in whole class lessons.

3.8 Teaching resources are selected on the basis of their appropriateness to pupils.

4. Assessment

- 4.1 The elements of Drugs Education that form part of the Science curriculum are assessed in accordance with the requirements of the National Curriculum. The learning from the other elements of Drugs is assessed as part of the PSHE provision.

5. Equal Opportunities

- 5.1 The school's drugs education programme of study is designed to promote the achievement of our aims and to ensure that all children have equality of access to them.
- 5.2 Children may have varying needs regarding Drugs Education depending on their circumstances and background. All pupils should have access to Drugs Education which is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this, the school's approach to Drugs Education will take account of ethnic and cultural diversity, varying home backgrounds, and special educational needs

6. Managing Drug Related Incidents Procedure

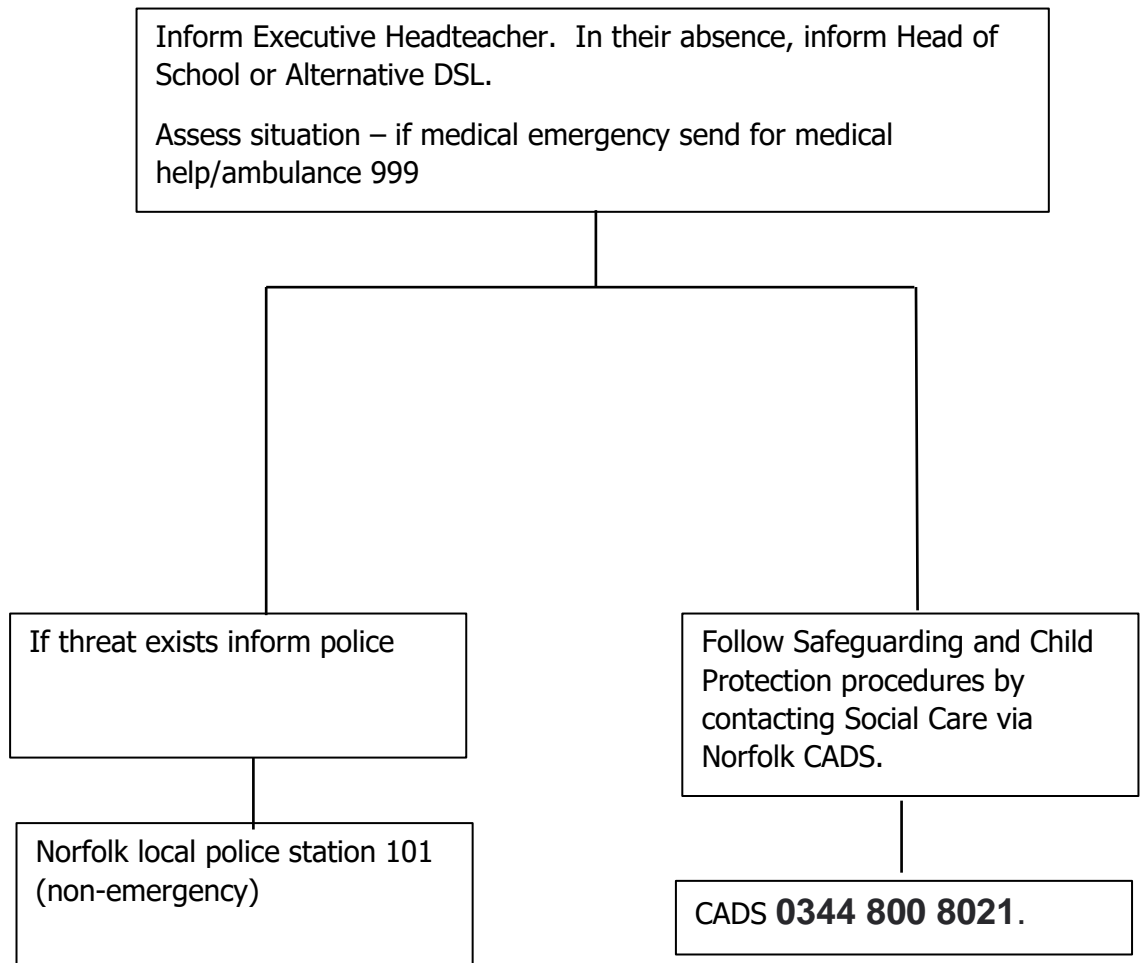
- 6.1 Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not permitted, nor acceptable within the school.
- 6.2 Our definition of drugs includes medicines, alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.
- 6.3 For prescribed medicines, see Medical Needs Policy or Administration of Medication Policy, or ask at the school office for procedures for administering prescribed medicines. Medicines are kept safely in the school office.
- 6.4 We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>
- 6.5 If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency, first aid procedures will be followed immediately.
- 6.6 In the absence of a medical emergency, the Executive Headteacher will be informed and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools to support our response to drug related incidents and the implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. The focus of any response will be the student, not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.
- 6.7 Responses will be cross-referenced with related school policies such as:
- Behaviour Policy
 - Health and Safety Policy
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
 - Educational Visits Policy
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Medical Needs Policy
 - Administration of Medicine Policy

- 6.8 Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents/carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and to resolve difficulties.
- 6.9 Our aim is to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential. We will work with the pupil, their parents or carers and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement and resolve any difficulties that exist. Drug related situations will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young person's life and not in isolation. We accept that it is never appropriate to respond in a way that is more punitive than that which might be considered by the police so that exclusion, whilst it remains an option, will be used as the very last resort.
- 6.10 Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises, it will be handed to the Executive Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in the school safe until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. The Executive Headteacher will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. The Local Authority School Drug Adviser and Drug and Alcohol Action Team are also able to provide guidance and advice.
- 6.11 All staff will be made aware of the legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving the Executive Headteacher.

7. Smoking Statement

- 7.1 Smoking is not allowed on the school site. This includes vapes and e-cigarettes.

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



9. Pupil(s) under the influence of drugs /alcohol on school premises.

