GRANGE JUNIOR SCHOOL

DRUG ABUSE AND AWARENESS POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Grange Junior School is committed to the health and safety of our staff and pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. Our drugs policy recognises that young people should be given the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.
This policy has been developed in order to help the children of our school by:

- Making them aware of drug and substance use and abuse.
- Exploring the consequences of such actions
- Taking a proactive stance in partnership with parents and outside agencies on issues of drug and substance abuse.

DEFINITION
Throughout this policy the term 'drugs' means all substances capable of being misused – including vapes, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances and psychoactive substances, as well as illegal drugs. We actively discourage the misuse of drugs and aim to ensure that pupils develop an awareness of the positive and negative aspects of drugs and about the dangers of their misuse, in order that they can make healthy and informed choices.

DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drug Education
The programme will be progressive throughout Key Stage 2 and be suited to the age and understanding of the children.

Aims
- To raise basic awareness of reliable, factual information about drugs
- To help pupils extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly in a society where drugs are misused
- To have an understanding about the effects of drugs and associated risks
- How to make informed choices regarding personal safety, giving the children the opportunity to communicate their concerns and make responsible decisions.
- To help pupils understand that seeking help appropriately is a strength, not a weakness

Children aged 7 –11 should be introduced to the fact that while all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines.

The children will have the opportunity to:
- Explore attitudes and values around drug misuse
- Practise assertive behaviour and decision making skills
- Become aware of peer pressure
- Consider the consequences of choices

- Learn about sources of help and information
- Emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- Evaluate media messages on drug use

The drugs programme will be taught as an integral part of PSHE with cross-curricular links with science. Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy.

PASTORAL SUPPORT

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well being of all its pupils.

Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drug education programme.

The Head-teachers or another member of the Inclusion team will log all incidents or concerns. Parents will also be informed, unless linked to an abuse case and provisions made for any outside professional support, such as police officers or health professionals. Where illegal substances are involved these outside agencies will automatically be informed.

If a pupil voluntarily discloses information about drug abuse, it is important to:

- Never over react
- Listen to the pupil's point of view
- Not jump to conclusions

Staff should not guarantee confidentially as they may need to inform other staff or the police.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

'In School' is taken to mean on school premises, including buildings and grounds. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips. The policy will also relate to pupil's use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day.

HEARSAY

Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to a member of the Inclusion team in school, who will record the matter as hearsay evidence. This will enable a record to be compiled of teachers' concerns and where necessary help and support offered to the pupil. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one calendar year the evidence will be removed from the records.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL

Any such incidents will be reported to police/social services to ensure relevant intervention is in place

SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOUR

Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.

PROCEDURES FOR FINDING SUBSTANCES

If a harmful or illegal substance is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping (School Office) in the presence of a witness from the school staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed immediately.

If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:

- The date and time of the find or retrieval
- The size and appearance/ name (if known) of the substance
- The names of the individuals concerned
- The action taken

If any equipment associated with drug misuse is discovered the items should be handled with care. The incident will be recorded and in the case of items such as needles and syringes they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents and /or appropriate authorities will be informed.

SEARCHING

Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school and the Head-teacher or representative may authorise a search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. Head teachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item (see DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation, Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies Jan 2018)

FINDING DRUG MISUSE

If children are found in possession of drugs as outlined in 'definition', parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken. In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well being of the pupil is paramount. In all instances:

- Separate the child involved from the rest of the group
- Decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare
- Inform parents

WORKING WITH THE MEDIA

No member of staff will speak to anyone from the media proir to this and children and their parents/carers will be actively encouraged to adhere to this also.

SUPPLYING ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES

It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.

RETURN ARTICLES WHICH HAVE BEEN CONFISCATED

Articles confiscated not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the articles to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

All staff need to:

- Understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education
- Be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities

It is hoped that by staff, governors, parents and children themselves working together we can safeguard the well being of all pupils in our care by educating them about the dangers of drug abuse.

The policy will be reviewed every two years or sooner in the event of any changes in legislation.

LINKED DOCUMENTS

- DfE Searching, Screening and Confiscation, Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies (Jan 2018)
- Hampshire Children's Trust Drugs and Misuse Policy (Sept2012)

Reviewed: November 2025

Next Review: November 2026