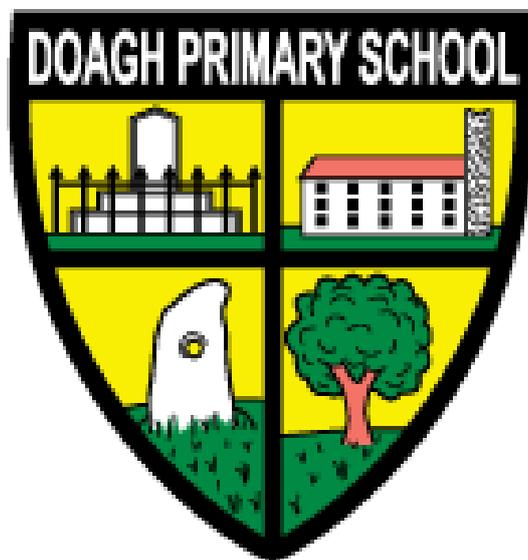


# Doagh Primary School



## Drugs Education and Procedures

February 2019

***Designated Teacher – Mrs L Brown***

***Deputy Designated Teacher/Governor – Miss Bell***



***The content of this policy and procedures should not alarm any parent. There has never been any incident regarding the misuse of drugs in our school and it is extremely unlikely that there ever will be. However, we have a duty of care to inform parents of the correct policies and procedures should any relevant matter arise.***

### **1. Our Drugs Education Programme**

In addition to the requirements of the NI Curriculum, we believe that we have a duty to inform and educate children about drug use. Consequently, as a safe and nurturing school, the over-riding aim of our Drugs Education Policy is to equip our children to make **wise** and **informed** decisions in an ever-changing society. We achieve this by **working together** with parents and the local community to provide opportunities for our children to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills which will enable them to make these decisions in order to adopt a **safe** and **healthy** lifestyle in a society where drugs are readily available.



It is a **statutory requirement** for all schools in Northern Ireland to have a Drugs Education Policy and our school's programme for such education forms part of our teaching and learning throughout the curriculum, particularly in PDMU (Personal Development & Mutual Understanding).

Our Drugs Education Programme aims to enable all of our pupils to make **healthy informed choices** by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision making skills. Older children are taught **real facts** about tobacco, alcohol, drugs and solvent abuse at an appropriate level, **dependent on their maturity**. Teachers sensitively help and guide children as they explore these areas.



### **2. Drugs Related Procedures**



We believe that we should be a 'drug free' community. Illegal substances should not be brought into school and the use of or supply of such drugs on the school premises will be addressed with the utmost seriousness.

## **DEFINITIONS:**

***For the purposes of this document, the terms drug and substance include “any product which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the body works or how a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.”***



**Drugs include:**

- Alcohol and tobacco and tobacco related products, including nicotine replacement therapy (NRT), and electronic cigarettes
- Over-the-counter medicines, such as Paracetamol and cough medicine
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, painkillers, antidepressants, antipsychotics, inhalers and stimulants such as Ritalin
- Volatile substances, such as correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues and petrol
- Controlled drugs, such as Cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, Amphetamine Sulphate (speed), Magic Mushrooms, Heroin and Cocaine
- New psychoactive substances (NPS), formerly known as legal highs\* which contain one or more chemical substances that produce similar effects to illegal drugs and are sold as incense, salts or plant food and marked ‘not for human consumption’ to avoid prosecution
- Other substances such as amyl or butyl nitrite (known as poppers) and unprocessed magic mushrooms

\*The term ‘legal high’ is no longer used as it is misleading. The public perceived that ‘legal’ meant safe. This is not the case, as these substances are not regulated and there is no way of knowing what chemicals they contain. Further information can be found at [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

## **PROCEDURES**

There is a range of circumstances that would invoke procedures regarding drugs:

1. A suspected substance or drug related paraphernalia is found on or close to the school premises
2. A pupil is suspected of having taken drugs/alcohol on school premises
3. A pupil is suspected of possessing/distributing an illegal substance
4. A pupil is in possession of alcohol or unauthorised prescribed medication on school premises
5. A parent/carer arrives at school to collect a child and appears to be under the influence of alcohol or another substance

All concerns should immediately be brought to the attention of the ***Designated Teachers:***

- **Mrs Brown (Designated teacher)**
- **Miss Bell (Deputy Designated Teacher/Governor)**

It is a **statutory requirement** that the **PSNI** is informed in all cases where it has been alleged or suspected that a pupil has a controlled drug in their possession or if such a drug has been found in the school grounds.

- Any illegal substance/paraphernalia, which is found, will be given to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher who will pass it on to the Principal.
- The Principal will keep the substance/paraphernalia in safe/secure storage until it can be handed over to the police.
- **Parents** will be informed and involved, **as soon as possible**, in the event of a drugs related (or suspected drugs related) incident involving their child.
- The pupil/s involved will be invited to **remain in the school** until parents/police arrive.
- **Parents have a pastoral duty of care to support their child outside of school if they are involved in a drugs incident.**

It is not appropriate to prescribe specific sanctions for any drug-related incident. The Principal will decide how to respond to any such incident.

Doagh Primary School will seek **parental support and co-operation** regarding the implementation of any disciplinary action that may be necessary as a result of any drugs related (or suspected drugs related) incident involving their child.

### Confidentiality

As per Child Protection guidelines, staff members cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. Staff should be **sensitive** towards all issues related to drugs, understand that such matters are **extremely confidential** and, consequently, only disclose any information to the Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher, Principal or PSNI.



### Emergency First Aid Procedures

Where it is considered that a pupil may have taken a substance suspected to be a drug, **medical assistance** will **immediately** be sought and the parents and police informed.



### **Storage, Handling and Disposal of Hazardous Substances**

Care is taken when purchasing and storing solvent materials which are used in school. All hazardous substances are kept in a **locked** container.

Medication is only administered on receipt of detailed instructions (on the 'Administration of Medicine' form) from the parent/guardian and when medication is in its original container.

*A copy of the Drugs Education and Procedures Policy is available upon request from the school office. Parents should feel free to discuss any matter regarding this policy and procedures with the Principal/Designated teacher.*