



## Freegrounds Infant School Drug awareness Policy

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Freegrounds Infant School is a Rights respecting school. Children and adults work together to recognise and act upon the rights of the child within our school, our local community, and the wider world. We believe that by understanding their own rights children learn to respect and value the rights of others.

In this Policy we specifically recognise the following articles from the UN convention on the Rights of the Child:

**Article 3** The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

**Article 19** Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and bad treatment.

**Article 24** Every child has the right to the best possible health.

**Article 28** Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child.

**Article 29** Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

### 2. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Freegrounds Infant School is committed to offering equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, religion, gender, ability or disability.

### 3. RATIONALE

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use, delay the onset of the first use, reduce the harm caused by drugs and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

Drug related issues within schools are rare. However nationally, misuse of drugs is considered to be a significant problem by medical and health professionals.

Freegrounds Infant School is committed to promoting the well being of the school community and will take action to safeguard this. Unauthorised drugs in school are not acceptable and the first concern of our school in managing drugs is to safeguard health. A drug education programme shall be taught as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education Curriculum provided by Coram SCARF.

The terms 'drugs' and 'drugs education' are used throughout this document to refer to: all illegal drugs, all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances, and all over-the-counter and prescription medicines unless otherwise stated. Alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and substances may not be used on the school premises by any governor, staff member, parent, student, contractor or member of the public.

The use of prescribed medicines for children with a short term medical condition will be administered in accordance with the school's policy on supporting children with medical conditions. Adults who require prescribed or non-prescribed medicine whilst on school premises must ensure all medicines are stored away from children. Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The aim of drugs education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs so that they can appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Drugs education will be part of Personal, Social and Health Education teaching and learning. Children will learn:

- That household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- That they have choices over what they put into and onto their bodies
- What constitutes, and how to maintain, a healthy lifestyle

A range of teaching and learning strategies will be implemented when teaching Drug Education. These might include discussion, focused tasks, circle time, problem solving, stories and role play. This will promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the children and prepare them for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

#### **4. Aims**

The aim of drugs education is to:

- give accurate information about drugs. Drugs referred to include legal, medicinal and illegal drugs, alcohol, volatile substances and tobacco
- understand the possible consequences of drug misuse
- acquire skills to avoid becoming involved with drugs
- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by providing opportunities to gain relevant and credible information, knowledge and understanding
- help each child develop self-esteem and a sense of self worth
- understand and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate this to their own and other's actions
- to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society
- to learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules

#### **5. Guidelines**

We will ensure:

- drug education and awareness is planned through the teaching of Coram SCARF Personal and Social Health Education lessons, RSE and Health Education and SMSC and that it shows continuity and progression throughout the school
- key messages are reinforced through the concept of the class charter, the UNICEF rights of the child articles
- drug education and awareness is supported through the involvement of the School nurse and other agencies such as the advice of Health Education and Police School Liaison Officer
- the need for information appropriate to age, stage of development and actual behaviour pattern
- that pupils with family members who misuse drugs are not stigmatised or their anxieties heightened regarding parents or family members welfare
- that we provide children with knowledge and information about harmful substances, in line with the National Curriculum and the 2020 RSE curriculum guidance
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff
- that we provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts, ideas and concerns
- help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives

#### **6. Managing Drug Related Incidents**

A drug related incident includes where:

- drugs or drug related equipment are found on school premises;
- a pupil is in possession of or supplying drugs or equipment on school premises

- a pupil, parent/carer, staff member or school volunteer is thought to be under the influence of drugs while on the school premises
- 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 or friend are using drugs
- a pupil demonstrates, through actions or play, a knowledge of drugs and drugs usage that is inappropriate to their age.

In the event of a drug related incident resulting in person or person's health being placed at risk, the school will place the utmost priority on safety, addressing any medical emergency first and summoning appropriate help before considering further issues.

Where a pupil demonstrates through actions or play an inappropriate knowledge of drugs or discloses that a family member is using drugs the incident will be recorded and dated. Parents/carers will be told of the incident unless the school feels that the child may need protection from the possibility of abuse. The Head teacher, in their role as the designated safeguarding lead (DSL), will be informed and the appropriate authorities contacted to ensure the safety of the child. Any safeguarding concerns related to drugs will be recorded on CPOMS.

When dealing with parents/carers who are under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm, unchallenging atmosphere. A teacher, who has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of an adult who is under the influence of drugs should make alternative care arrangements for that child and immediately inform the Head teacher (or Deputy Head teacher in her absence). The focus for staff will always be the child's welfare and they should not try to moderate the adult's behaviour.

Freegrounds Infant School is a totally smoke free zone in accordance with the law relating to smoking in public places. This includes the prohibited use of e-cigarettes.

Teachers have a duty of care to pupils entrusted to their care at all times. A member of staff may be deemed unfit to carry out that duty if they are a risk or potential risk to the health and safety of pupils or colleagues. Where the use of illegal drugs or alcohol by staff members means that staff are unfit to carry out their duties, disciplinary action will be taken against them as a result.

All drug related incidents should be reported immediately to the head teacher immediately who will record the incident and involve the appropriate authorities if necessary.

### **7. Assessment**

A variety of approaches to the assessment of individuals will be practiced by teacher This will include discussion, observation and recorded work during discrete PSHE lessons and as part of day-to-day classroom life.

### **8. Monitoring**

The PSHE lead is responsible for monitoring the standards of children's work and the quality of teaching. This person supports colleagues in the teaching of Drugs education.

This policy has been agreed by the staff, governors and parents of the school.

Policy created September 2015

Policy reviewed October 2016, November 2017, November 2019, November 2020, February 2023, March 2024, March 2025

Review annually

<b>Version control:</b>	V7 26.03.2024 Addition of reference to Coram SCARF for the delivery of the PSHE curriculum. Reference to CPOMS to record any drug related safeguarding concerns.
	V8 26.3.2025 Change to acknowledge policy review in March 2025