

Hurlingham School



Hurlingham School Drugs Education Policy

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1. Introduction

At Hurlingham School, we believe it is essential to deliver drugs education to our students. We believe in giving pupils the facts, appropriate to their age and level of understanding. We always emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and aim to give the pupils the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and responsible choices now and in the future.

2. Aims

The school believes that the essential aim of drugs education should be to provide pupils with the knowledge and skills to enable them to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life, emphasising the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. We think that drugs education should contribute to promoting the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils and prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The Department of Education states that, 'Schools have a key role to play in ensuring that young people understand the risks involved and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to avoid them. They have a major contribution to make in discouraging drug misuse, encouraging positive attitudes and self-esteem, and promoting healthy lifestyles. Schools alone cannot, of course, solve the problem of drug misuse in society, but the implementation of an effective programme of drug education in all schools is an essential step in tackling it.' We aim to use this statement as the foundation for our drugs education policy.

3. Definition of a Drug

For the purpose of this policy the following definition of a drug applies:
"a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

The DfE states that 'young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs, but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal, these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs, making them illegal to possess.' Therefore, new psychoactive substances are included in the school drugs policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such.

4. Curriculum delivery

The aims of Drugs Education within the curriculum at Hurlingham School are to:

- Raise pupils' awareness of the world of drugs so that they can make informed and responsible decisions about their own drug use
- Encourage a healthy respect for all substances taken into the body
- Teach knowledge and skills which enable our pupils to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others
- Enable pupils to explore their own and others' feelings, views, attitudes and values towards drugs and drug-related issues
- Provide accurate information on drugs
- Provide many opportunities to learn about keeping themselves healthy and safe

The school's approach to Drugs Education within the curriculum

1. It is taught through the National Curriculum Science Programme of Study.
In Year 1 and 2, pupils should be taught about the use of drugs as medicines.

In Upper School, pupils should be taught to relate their understanding of sciences to their personal health and that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

2. Drugs Education modules within each Key Stage delivered within a planned PSHEE programme.

In Years 1 and 2, pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

In Upper School, pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco (including the use of e-cigarettes), volatile substances and illegal drugs and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure and to take more responsibility for their actions.

Year 6 will learn about new psychoactive substances and the risks associated. Through discussion, students will learn what these substances are and what to do if confronted by them.

5. The delivery of Drugs Education across the curriculum

Drug education is also delivered through Science, RPE, PSHEE, Citizenship, English activities and circle time, as discussions consistently take place around decision making and right and wrong. Drugs education is also woven through our SMSC (Social, Moral, Spiritual, Cultural) provision at our school. The curriculum is taught by classroom teachers in whole class or group situations using a broad variety of teaching and learning strategies such as video, stories, discussion, looking at case studies, drama and role play. Teachers use teaching methods that are age-appropriate, taking into account the developmental needs of

individual pupils. External speakers are also used on occasion to enhance the learning done within the school.

6. Parental Communication

The school values its partnerships with parents and the wider school community and communicates with parents and carers regarding the drugs education curriculum. This is done through email correspondence as well as newsletters and webinars.

7. Pupil Discipline, Support and managing drug-related incidents

Where pupils are taking prescribed medication, they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drug use.

We recognise that drug-related incidents in primary schools are rare, but we also recognise the need for clear provisions should an incident occur. Therefore, we will follow the DfE guidance of 'Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.' 'Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place, or to seek their consent to search their child. There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search. Schools would normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so'. Any incident related to drugs at Hurlingham School will therefore be recorded in accordance with our recording protocol.

Date of last review: January 2022 (G McNaught - Head of PSHEE)

Date of next review: By end of September 2022

Annex A - from the DfE Guidance for Drug Education and Advice for Schools –

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscopec.org.uk Website: www.drugscopec.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org Smokefree -

NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk> Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>