



GREAT ECCLESTON COPP CHURCH OF  
ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



# DRUG EDUCATION POLICY



*“Let us love, not in word, but in truth and action.” (1 John 3:18)*

SEPTEMBER 2023

Approved by GB: September 2023  
Next review due: September 2024

In building solid foundations for every unique individual and putting God's love at the centre of all we do, our children learn to embrace our diverse world. We encourage our children to learn universally in order to understand our heritage and roots as a village, town, region and nation. Through strong community links, our children grow in **compassion** and **understanding**, **promote justice** and possess commitment and **aspire** to make a positive difference. We offer an ambitious curriculum that ignites **curiosity** along with high personal expectations that fosters **resilience** and which enables them to flourish. Our children are easily distinguished by the **courage** they show when making brave choices and understand the importance of becoming the very best versions of themselves.

Great Eccleston Copp CE Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its children and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The policy reflects the need for a clear, consistent and balanced approach to drug education and incident management in light of the increase in availability, range and prevalence of drugs. We aim to stimulate the desire to explore and learn in preparation for life in developing independence, confidence and self-esteem.

### **Definitions of Substances**

The term 'drug' refers to substances that change the way the body or mind work, including:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Vaping
- Volatile substances (aerosols, solvents, glue or petrol)
- Caffeine
- Over the counter prescribed drugs e.g. painkillers, antibiotics
- Illegal drugs e.g. ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroine

The term 'drug use' within a primary school context refers to:

- Certain prescribed medicines allowed into school on a long or short-term basis with the written consent of parents/carers
- Non prescription medicines allowed into school with the written consent of parents/carers
- Using drugs such as glue on school premises provided it is for their proper, intended purpose

The term 'drug misuse' within a primary school context refers to:

- Pupils possessing and using legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco or vaping
- Pupils using legal drugs such as glue in a dangerous manner i.e. sniffing
- Pupils possessing or using illegal drugs on the school premises

### **Aims**

- To create a positive climate in which teaching and learning takes place where pupils feel comfortable to discuss their perceptions of drug use and explore their attitudes towards drugs
- To develop knowledge and understanding of drugs, how they are used/misused and their effects, good and bad
- To encourage pupils to develop healthy lifestyles
- To enable pupils to recognise positive and negative influences on their lives now and in the future
- To develop pupils ability to make decisions and assess risks

We aim to equip children with the appropriate age-related knowledge to support them in making their own correct informed decisions. As part of our PSHE scheme, we teach the following learning objectives:

### **RECEPTION**

Pupils are taught:

- About the importance of good health, including ways to keep healthy and safe

### **KEY STAGE ONE**

Pupils are taught:

- About the role of drugs as medicines
- About how to keep healthy
- That all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly

### **KEY STAGE TWO**

Pupils are taught:

- About the effects on the human body of tobacco, vaping, alcohol and other drugs and how these relate to their personal health
- Which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects and risks

### **Visitors and Outside Agencies**

Other pertinent visitors may be brought in as and when necessary.

### **Confidentiality**

With regard to pupils providing staff with information, staff will never offer absolute confidentiality, as information may need to be passed to other staff members and/or outside agencies.

### **Dealing with drug related incidents**

All drug related incidents will be dealt with in a serious, but sensitive manner. Each incident will be investigated thoroughly based upon the evidence and circumstances. A close working relationship will be maintained with outside agencies and advice sought when necessary.

All staff will be aware of and use the following agreed procedures:

- Ensure the well being of the child/children
- Ensure any medication for individual use is kept in a suitable place
- Inform the Headteacher
- Investigate and obtain relevant information and/or substances
- Contact parents/carers
- Where necessary seek advice from outside agencies (where illegal substances are involved, outside agencies will automatically be informed)
- Record all incidents
- Apply sanctions, support and/or education to ensure the well being of the school community

### **Well being mentor**

At Great Eccleston Copp CE Primary School, we acknowledge the importance of its pastoral role and we will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils and staff, through well-being time.

### **Drug Misusing Parent**

Children of drug using parents are identified as an at-risk group. However, drug use by parents does not in itself indicate child neglect or abuse.

Advice will be sought from an appropriate agency prior to any action being taken in school. Issues of confidentiality would be carefully considered.

## **Health and Safety**

The Health and Safety of children, adults and visitors in Great Eccleston Copp CE Primary School is the immediate responsibility of all members of staff and ultimately that of the Governing Body, which has a Health and Safety Committee.

As a staff we have agreed to be aware of and report on Health and Safety issues as they arise.

It is our responsibility to:

- Follow safety precautions when storing cleaning chemicals, equipment etc.
- Frequently remind children about safety precautions and procedures
- Check the playground and school area for drug related hazards e.g. cleaning materials out of place, discarded syringes, alcohol bottles or cans
- Provide a first aider and know the location of the first aid box
- Encourage healthy life styles at every opportunity

## **Training**

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained.

## **Headteacher and Governing Body**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, LA, parents and agencies.

It is hoped that, by staff, governors, parents and children working together, we can safeguard the well-being of all pupils in our care by educating them about the dangers of drug abuse and teaching them how to live a healthy lifestyle.