



ICENI ACADEMY
Part of Connected Learning
Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Philosophy

It is the schools aim to prepare children for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their lives, and this includes enabling them to take their place in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

This document outlines our policy on drug education and drug related issues.

Within this policy, the word drug refers to:

All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and “poppers”

All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Prescribed medicines

Over the counter medicines

Iceni Academy recognises that some drugs have a beneficial effect, but also that all drugs have the potential for harm.

Aims and objectives

This policy outlines how Iceni aims to ensure that:

- Children in school receive an education that enables them to grow up confidently, knowledgeably, competently and safely in a drug using world.
- That children get consistent messages about living a healthy lifestyle which includes physical, emotional and mental health and personal safety.
- Staff and pupils are able to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.
- Pupils have the knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed choices.

- All staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware of the schools policy on social occasions that occur within school.
- All drug related incidents are addressed throughout the school in a consistent manner.
- All staff, pupils and parents/carers are aware of the school’s legal and statutory obligations, including those around safeguarding children (child protection).
- All staff have access to training and support that enables them to contribute to education on drug issues.
- All members of the school community are included within this policy as part of the whole school approach to drugs.

- All staff have access to information on local services that support children, young people and families.

Drug Education

Aims

Drug education seeks to increase pupils knowledge, understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about:

- The roles of medicines and other drugs in our society
- The short and long term risks of drug misuse
- The rules and laws relating to drugs

Develop pupil's personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy:

- Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- Communicating effectively
- Resisting pressures
- Finding information, help and advice
- Devising problem solving and coping strategies
- Developing awareness and self esteem

Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and other influences.

Iceni Academy delivers drug education through:

- PSHE/Citizenship sessions as part of a spiral curriculum from year 3 to year 6.
- A range of methods, including small group work, circle time discussion, research and project work and drama.
- Science lessons.
- External visitors e.g. police or school drugs adviser lead sessions.
- The Life Bus

Our drug education will be taught in the following ways:

- An assessment of the pupil's current level of language and understanding about drugs will be undertaken prior to drug education sessions. By exploring what children already know as undertaken in science and history programmes of study for example.

- As part of a programme of PSHE it will build on concepts that the young people already know and understand. It will link to work on safety, relationships and communication skill.
- It will use language appropriate to their age, level of prior knowledge, culture, ethnicity and vulnerability.
- It will be relevant to the backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity and needs of our pupils.
- It will focus on relevant situations and the subsequent emotions that influence choice, thinking skills, especially risk assessment, problem solving and interpersonal skills.
- It will offer accurate, credible sources of information and avoid sensationalised information.
- It will ensure that all pupils, regardless of background and ability, can equally access the schemes of work.

Pupil Welfare and Support

It is the guiding principle of this school that:

“The welfare of the child and their peers is paramount”.

It is recognised that problems with drug use can affect any of our children and young people and may include:

- Accidental exposure to a substance or drug equipment
- Parental or sibling misuse
- Experimental or recreational use of a drug leading to problems such as accidents while under the influence, becoming involved with an older drug using group
- Developing a dependency on a drug, either physical or psychological
- Health related problems, either immediate such as collapse or unconsciousness, or longer term such as effects on breathing
- Mental and emotional health problems, including depression and anxiety
- Exclusion from their peer group, negative effects on relationships and friendships
- Difficulties with behaviour at school leading to exclusion
- Involvement in criminality and or anti-social behaviour

Pupils with Medical Needs in School

The school supports inclusive education. For those pupils with specific medical needs that may require treatment, staff will receive regular training, a record of which will be kept in the school medical files.

Pupils will not be given medication by any staff without specific written consent from the parent/carer. Written consent will be renewed six monthly where medication is required long term and will be accompanied by a health care plan.

Prescribed medication must be delivered to the school office and will be logged in the medications book and stored in a locked cupboard. Emergency medications such as Asthma inhalers will be logged in and kept by the class teacher in a designated box. Epi pens are kept by the relevant class teacher.

The log book will be a written record of the time of administration, name of medicine, dose given and child's name. Administration of medicines will be by an admin officer.

Children on long term medical care will have an Individual Health Care Plan drawn up. Staff will receive training about emergency treatment.

Procedures for the Management of Drug Related Incidents

We define a drug related incident to be:

A situation or incident that becomes known to the school relating to:

- A child disclosing drug use, or disclosing parental drug use
- A child or staff member being under the influence of a drug
- A parent/carer being under the influence of a drug when collecting a child from school or on school premises
- A child or staff member in possession of a drug, either for their own use or for another person
- The taking of an illegal drug on the premises, where the identity of the person is unknown or not verified, including finding drugs paraphernalia on the school premises

Procedures for Responding to Drug Related Incidents

The Head Teacher or the Deputy Head Teacher in her absence must be informed of any drug related incidents and will take the lead in deciding how to respond in liaison with the Chair of Governors if appropriate.

Each situation will be assessed carefully to substantiate the evidence and facts.

All drug related incidents will be recorded. We will make no entry on the pupil's permanent record until all the evidence has been gathered and corroborated. Only factual information will be recorded. The school will regularly follow-up drug related incidents in order to review progress.

Drug Related Incidents on School Premises:

- The school is a no smoking site at all times
- Alcohol and tobacco are only permitted onto school premises in the possession of adults
- Alcohol should be sealed in bottles/cans while on the school premises, any unauthorised consumption of alcohol will lead to the adult being asked to leave the school premises.
- Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, paraphernalia or sniffable products at any time.
- Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of any medicine that has not been logged in the medications book. Any medicines will be confiscated and returned to their parent/carer at the end of the school day.
- Any pupil found in possession of any unauthorised drugs or paraphernalia on the school premises will have it confiscated.
- No member of staff should confiscate a substance, which they believe to be an illegal drug without the presence of another member of staff or police officer.
- If a confiscated drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police to discuss the situation, and a record will be kept of the advice/action taken. All drugs suspected to be illegal will be kept in a locked cupboard until they can be handed to the police at the earliest opportunity.
- Parents will normally be contacted as soon as the school has any evidence of involvement of pupils with unauthorised drugs, unless this might compromise the pupil's safety.
- The school will endeavour to support the child with any subsequent referral, which may include the pupil receiving agency support sessions on the school premises if appropriate.
- Permanent exclusion from school will be rarely considered, a range of sanctions and supportive interventions will be used.
- Safeguarding Children (child protection) issues will be considered as a priority for the use of solvents and volatile substances due to high risk associated with their use.
- Other outside services such as LA, LA Schools Drugs Advisor, Police, GP. Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Parents under the influence:

A parent attending the school under the influence should be regarded as a Child protection concern, and appropriate action to safeguard the child should be taken if necessary.

This may include:

- Arranging for another parent known to the child to look after the child
- Arranging for the child to remain in school until a responsible adult can collect them, i.e. the named contact on the emergency contacts list
- Contact police to report incident if a parent is abusive, aggressive or threatening the child, staff or other members of the school community.
- Child Protection Officer to contact social services and make referral if appropriate
- Arranging an appointment for the parent to meet with school staff to discuss concerns and strategies for any future incidents.

Use of School Premises for Illegal Drug Taking:

The school recognises that it has a legal responsibility to ensure that it does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the consumption of or the supply of illegal drugs. Wherever possible appropriate action will be taken, which may include reporting to the police incidents of drug paraphernalia being found on the school premises.

The school will liaise with the police and cooperate fully if the police decide to investigate further incidents where the premises are thought to be used out of normal school hours for drug taking.

Drug Related Incidents Off Site

Any drug related incident that occurs off site, i.e. a school day or residential trip will be dealt with by attending staff and reported to the Head Teacher at the earliest opportunity for recording. The Head Teacher will then coordinate an investigation and decide on appropriate action.

Pupil Welfare and Support

It is recognised that problems with drug use can affect any of our children and may include:

- Accidental exposure to a substance or drug equipment (e.g. discarded needles)
- Parental or sibling drug misuse.
- Developing a dependency on drug, either physical or psychological.
- Health related problems either immediate such as collapse or unconsciousness or longer term such as effect on breathing.
- Mental and emotional health problems, including depression and anxiety.
- Exclusion from their peer group, negative effects on relationships and friendships.
- Difficulties with behaviour at school leading to exclusion.
- Involvement in criminality and/ or anti-social behaviour.

Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. This will include offering support through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels that any pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents.

Particularly Vulnerable Children

The school recognises that children having difficulties in their lives are more likely to begin drug use at an early age, more likely to become involved in using or supplying drugs, and more likely to be in households where parents and carers have drug problems.

Risk factors for children include:

- Being looked after/in care
- Chaotic home environment
- Unstable accommodation
- Parents/ carers or siblings having drug problems and or mental health problems
- Behavioural disorders
- School truants/ refusers

- Exclusion from school
- Traumatic experiences such as abuse, neglect, bereavement, loss and family break-up
- Friendships with anti-social or older peers
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Pupils living with associated risk factors will receive on going, support through the school's pastoral care system. Their welfare will be monitored regularly, and the school will be represented whenever possible at any multi-agency meetings, such as Child Protection conferences.

Confidentiality

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a pupil though information given in confidence will not be disclosed to anyone else unless appropriate. If a pupil discloses that they are using a drug without medical or parent authorisation, the safety of the child will be the priority. Action will be taken to ensure the pupil comes to no serious harm, which may include one to one drug education, sharing information with parents/carers, the school nurse and other external services.

Disclosure of parental drug use will be treated sensitively with consideration of the parent's confidentiality and safeguarding children (child protection) procedures.