

THAKEHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Small School, Big Opportunities, Great Achievements'



Drugs Policy

Thakeham Primary School

Date approved by Standards, Teaching & Learning Committee:
16.11.2020

Review Date: July 2023

Signed

Headteacher: *S. Norton*

Chair of Governors: *Judith James*

Drugs Policy Statement

This drugs policy will be disseminated to all staff and central copies will be kept in the office, Medical room and be stored electronically on the school system and website. Parts of the policy may be replicated in other school publications. The document should be used in conjunction with the behaviour, health and safety, medicine and safeguarding and child protection policies.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working within the school. Parents will also be informed of this policy.

Introduction

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience.

Furthermore research shows that up to 50% of children have tried an illegal drug by the age of 16. The figures also suggest the first age of experimentation is decreasing and that children of primary age are exposed to opportunities to try both illegal and legal drugs. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together' stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

Aims

Specific aims outlined in the national guidance (DfE 2012) are:

- clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false information and beliefs
- to provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs
- improve their self-esteem and self confidence
- to encourage children to value themselves and others
- make informed decisions and choices
- develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- maintain and develop relationships
- develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- ensure all staff in dealing are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use
- support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use

At Thakeham Primary School our drug education aims to support this purpose and is set up to fulfil these aims.

Definition

A drug is: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

The term ‘drug’ refers to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates;
- All over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

Thakeham Primary School forbids the possession/use of illegal drugs and substances, or use of such drugs in the school premises or grounds or during off site, school related activities. Our school will take appropriate action if any pupil of this school or any person on these premises uses such drugs.

Please refer to the schools Medicines Policy for guidance on the use and storage of over the-counter and prescribed drugs in school.

Resources

Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science. The National Curriculum guidelines for Science require that children are taught:-

- At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

At Thakeham Primary School we draw on specific objectives from Jigsaw, our PSHE curriculum programme to support our work.

Cross Curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with Science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE). There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Dealing with a drugs related incident in school

Thakeham Primary School forbids the possession/use of illegal drugs and substances, or use of such drugs in the school premises or grounds or during off site, school related activities. Our school will take appropriate action if any pupil of this school or any person on these premises uses such drugs.

Please refer to the school’s Medicines Policy for guidance on the use and storage of over the-counter and prescribed drugs in school.

Any drugs related incident should immediately be reported to:

The Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher.

A member of staff trained in first aid, should be contacted in the case of a medical emergency.

Samples of suspected illegal substances will be handed to the Headteacher who will store them in a locked container with a signed witness statement including all relevant information about the source of the sample.

Confidential Sensitive information will only be disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the pupil's rights and needs. Although we have no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, our school will contact our local liaison officer and act on their advice. The police would also be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

Parents at Thakeham Primary School will encourage parents to support their efforts on drug awareness and prevention.

Current advice from DfE regarding drug related incidents:-

School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when:

- it is supported by the whole school community;*
- drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;*
- staff have access to high quality training and support. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK and Urban75 for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services. These sources can be used as part of, or in addition to, the school's own drug and alcohol education. If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.*

See appendices for a quick reference guide in dealing with drugs and individuals on the school premises.

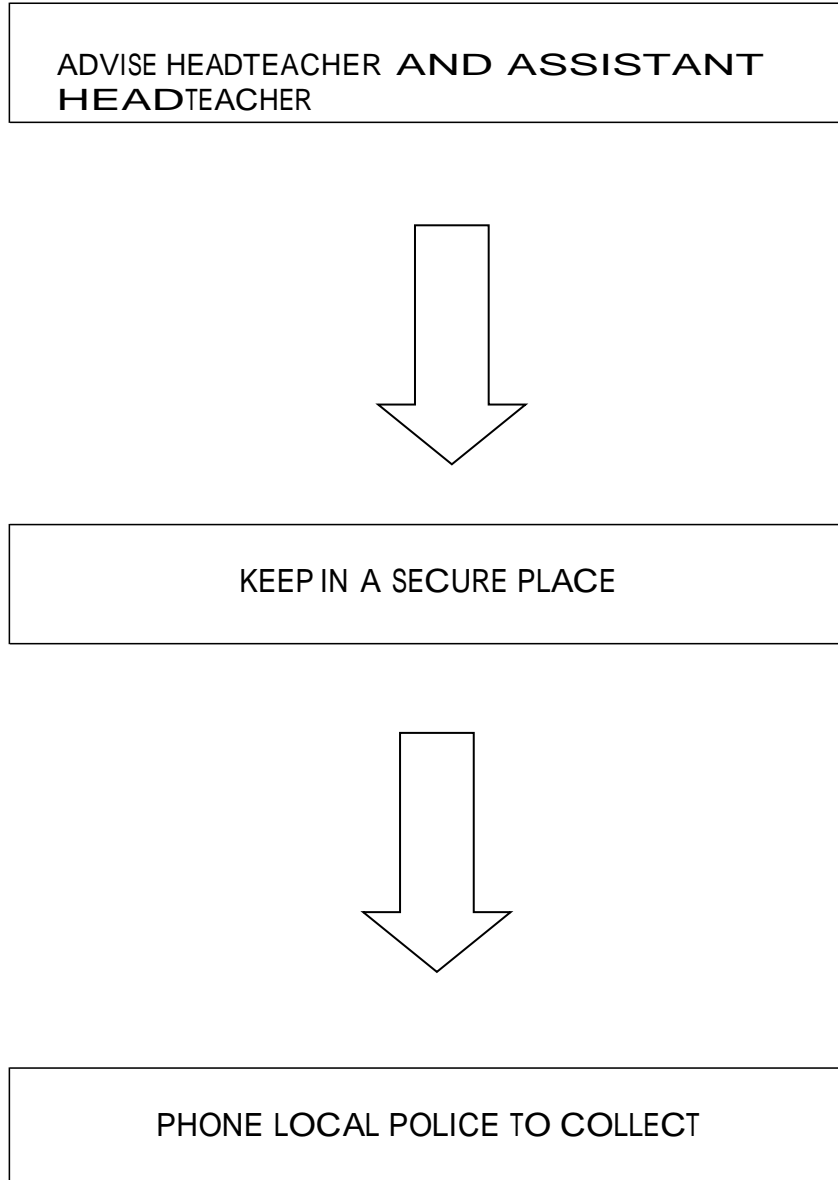
Staff Training

Staff attending relevant training will disseminate the information to other staff as appropriate. Staff may receive training in-house, through courses or visits to other schools.

For useful local addresses and support see appendix 5.

APPENDIX 1

ILLEGAL DRUGS FOUND ON PREMISES



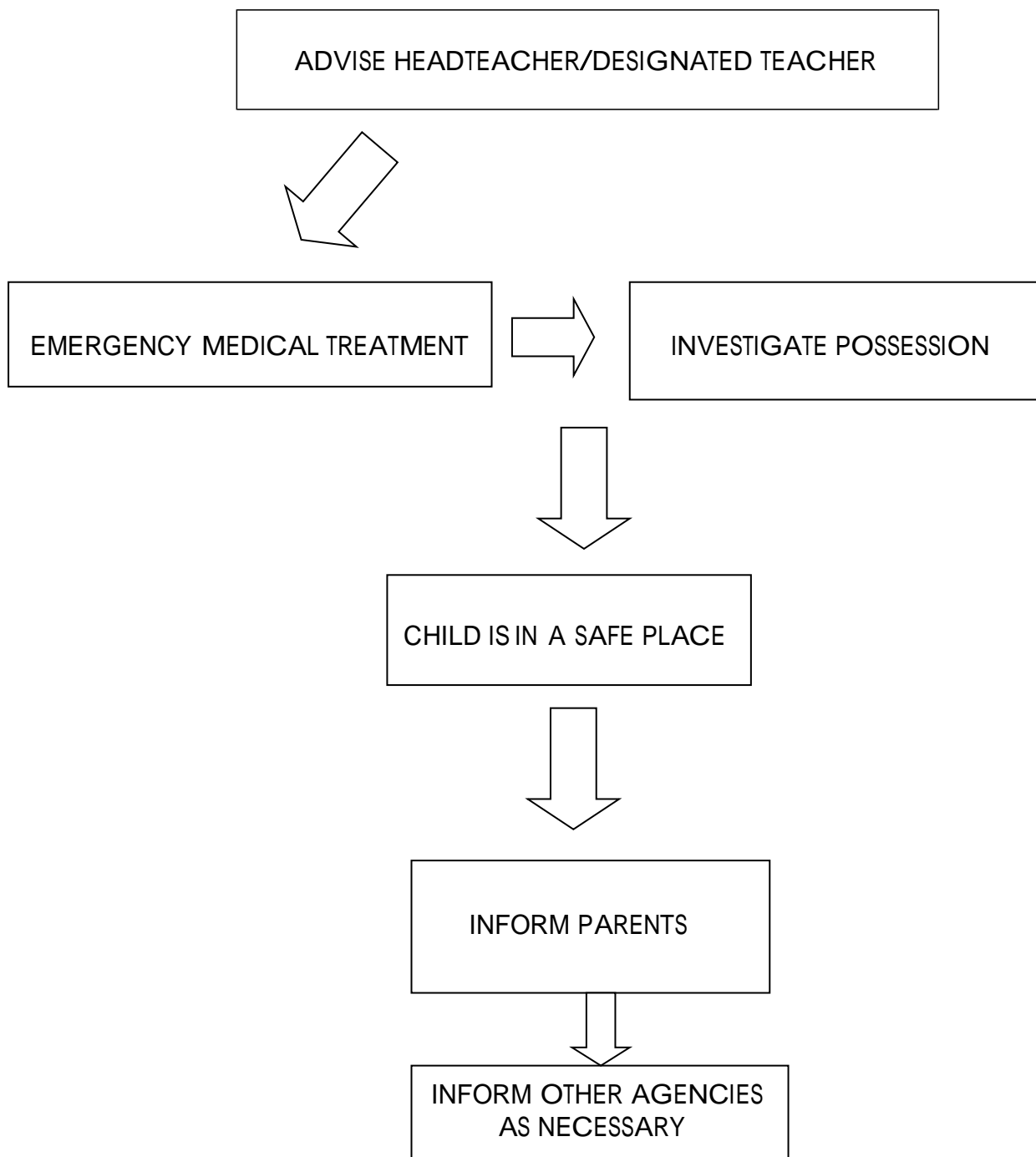
Drugs Awareness

Do not touch, sniff, handle

WSCC will be notified of all reported incidents

APPENDIX 2

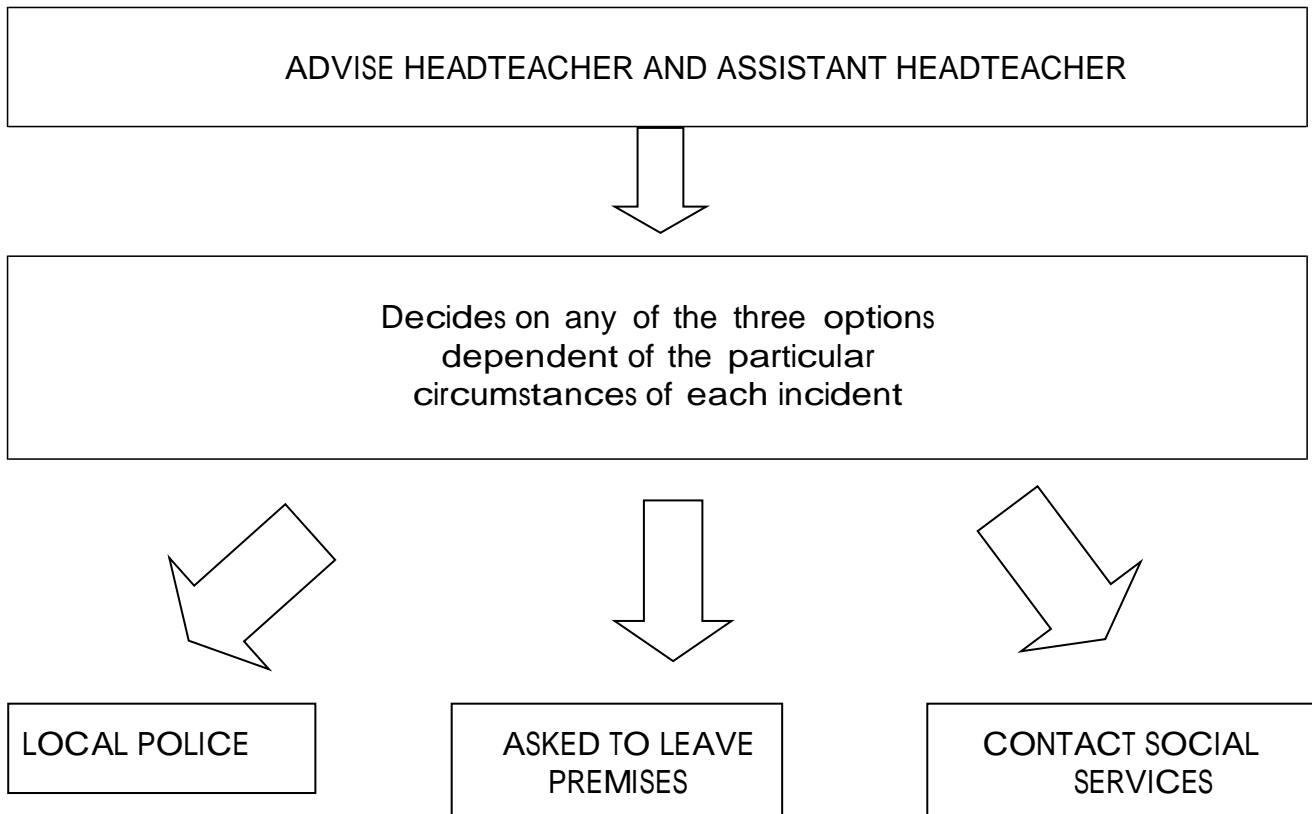
PUPILS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL



Inform LA Advisor of any incident

APPENDIX 3

PARENTS/CARERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES

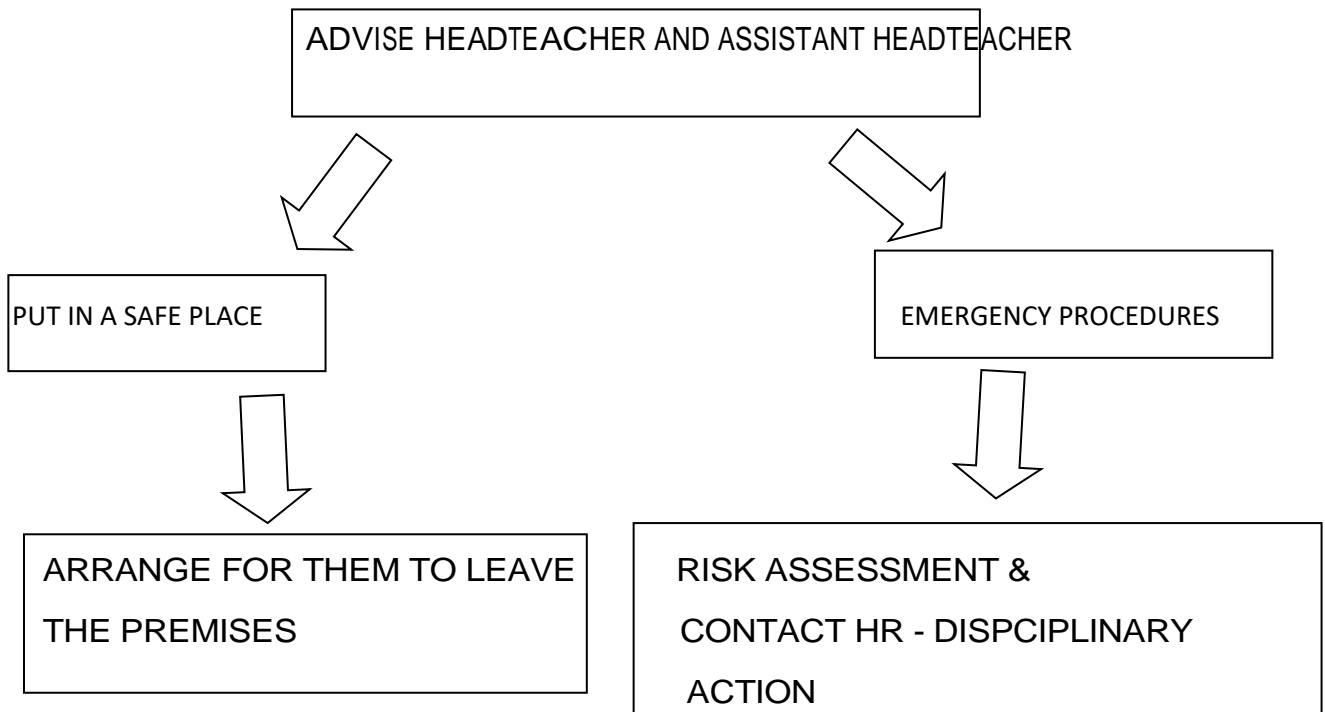


Inform LA Advisor of any incident

No alcohol will be permitted to be drunk by a member of staff on school premises.

APPENDIX 4

STAFF/GOVERNORS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES



APPENDIX 5

Sussex Alcohol and Substance Use Service (SASS) 01273 727 888 focussed counselling for people with substance use problems and their significant others.

[DrinkCoach](#) is a website that allows you to anonymously find out if you are drinking at harmful levels and to get advice and information about alcohol, and support to cut down.

DrinkCoach online coaching is available for anyone wanting to reduce their drinking. If you are tired of hangovers, costs and the impact on your health, our alcohol specialists can help you identify and achieve your drinking goals.

DrinkCoach online coaching is professional, convenient and confidential. You can access the service anywhere and at anytime it suits you: weekdays, evenings and weekends. All you need is a Skype connection.

If you live and/or work in West Sussex click on the following link and enter the promo code WSWELL to book your free sessions:

[Book an appointment](#)

For more information on DrinkCoach download the [DrinkCoach information leaflet](#) or visit drinkcoach.org.uk

To explore a healthier, happier relationship with alcohol, take a look at this [Mindful Drinking leaflet](#)

[Soberistas](#) is an online community for anyone who wants help to stop drinking.

[Club Soda](#) is a social network and provides tools to help people to change their drinking, whether that be to cut down, stop for a bit, quit or stick.

[The Sober School](#) is a website for women trying to stop drinking or take a break from booze. There are blogs, hints and tips and courses to help people cut down or stop drinking.

The [West Sussex Wellbeing](#) website features alcohol information and local support options. [Your local wellbeing hub](#) can offer face to face support for being drinking a bit too much, a little too often.

[Alcoholics Anonymous](#) run groups for alcohol users with regular meetings across the country. Visit their website, call 0845 769 7555 10am to 10pm or [email](#) to find out your nearest group.

[SMART Recovery](#) (SMART) is a science-based programme to help people manage their recovery from any type of addictive behaviour. This includes addictive behaviour with substances such as alcohol, nicotine or drugs, or compulsive behaviours such as gambling, sex, eating, shopping, self-harming and so on. SMART stands for 'Self Management And Recovery Training'.

Drinkline offers confidential advice and information to people affected by their own or someone else's drinking, including information about where to get support locally. Call 0300 123 1110 on Monday to Friday between 9am and 8pm, and at weekends between 11am and 4pm.

[The Samaritans](#) provide confidential emotional support to any person who is suicidal or despairing. Call 08457 90 90 90 for free, confidential advice 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, [email them](#), or write to FREEPOST RSRB-KKBY-CYJK, Chris, PO Box 90 90, Stirling, FK8 2SA.

Drugs

[FRANK](#) helps you to find out everything you might want to know about drugs (and some stuff you don't). For friendly, confidential advice, [Talk to FRANK](#)

[ThinkDrinkDrugs](#) provides drug and alcohol facts, support services and latest information for Sussex and Kent.

Change Grow Live are a free and confidential drug and alcohol service for adults aged 25+ (including offenders), families and affected others. [0330 128 1113](tel:03301281113) or email us on westsussex.contact@cgl.org.uk.