



Belmont CP School

Drugs Policy

1. Introduction

Belmont CP School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all pupils. We recognise that drug use and misuse can have a significant impact on health, safety and learning.

This policy outlines the school's approach to drug education, prevention and the management of drug-related incidents. It applies to all members of the school community, including pupils, staff, parents, carers and visitors.

Drug-related incidents may constitute a safeguarding concern and will be managed in line with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

2. Definition of Drugs

For the purposes of this policy, a drug is defined as any substance that affects how a person feels, thinks or behaves.

This includes:

- Alcohol, tobacco and vapes/e-cigarettes
- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines (when misused)
- Illegal drugs (e.g. cannabis, cocaine, heroin)
- Psychoactive substances

3. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** overall responsibility for drug-related issues, including safeguarding responses and liaison with external agencies
- **PSHE Lead:** responsible for drug education curriculum, staff support and training
- **Staff:** follow procedures, report concerns and support pupils
- **Governors:** monitor policy effectiveness

4. Aims of the Policy

We aim to:

- Provide clear guidance on managing drug-related issues
- Support pupils to make safe, informed choices

- Prevent drug misuse through education
- Ensure a consistent and proportionate response to incidents
- Safeguard pupils at risk

5. Drug Education

Drug education is delivered through the PSHE curriculum and aims to:

- Provide accurate information about drugs and their effects
- Develop decision-making, communication and refusal skills
- Challenge misconceptions and stereotypes
- Promote healthy and safe lifestyles

6. School Rules

The school does not permit:

- Possession, use or supply of illegal drugs
- Misuse of legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco or vapes

This applies:

- On school premises
- During the school day
- On visits, residentials and school events

The school is a smoke-free environment, including vaping.

7. Managing Drug-Related Incidents

A drug-related incident may include:

- possession, use or supply of substances
- disclosure or concern
- medical emergency

Key principles:

- The Headteacher/DSL is informed immediately
- The safety and wellbeing of pupils is prioritised
- Each case is considered individually
- Parents/carers are informed where appropriate
- Safeguarding procedures are followed

8. Responses to Incidents

Responses may include:

Support:

- Early Help assessment
- pastoral support
- referral to external services
- targeted education

Sanctions:

- Applied in line with the Behaviour Policy
- Proportionate to the incident
- Exclusion considered in serious cases

9. Procedures

Discovery of substances:

- Confiscate in the presence of a witness
- Store securely
- Inform DSL/Headteacher
- Contact police if substance is suspected illegal

Searches:

- Conducted in line with current DfE guidance
- Authorised by Headteacher
- Carried out respectfully and appropriately

Medical emergencies:

- Call emergency services immediately
- Administer first aid
- Inform parents/carers

Recording:

- All incidents are recorded on CPOMS
- Outcomes and actions are documented

10. Safeguarding and Support

We recognise that drug misuse may be linked to wider safeguarding concerns.

The school will:

- support pupils affected by their own or others' drug use
- consider the needs of vulnerable pupils
- involve external agencies where appropriate

Confidentiality will be respected, but staff will act where there are safeguarding concerns.

11. Working with Parents and External Agencies

We work in partnership with parents/carers and external services to:

- support pupils
- provide information and guidance
- respond effectively to incidents

Police will be involved in cases involving suspected illegal drugs.

12. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be:

- reviewed every two years or sooner if required
- monitored by senior leaders and governors

Ratified by governors at their meeting on	06 May 2026
Signed	
Review Date	May 2028