



**Partney CE (VA)**  
**Primary School**

**Pupil Drug and Alcohol  
Policy**

Signed by:

\_\_\_\_\_ Headteacher      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair of governors      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Contents:

**[Updated]** [Statement of intent](#)

1. **[Updated]** [Legal framework](#)
2. [Roles and responsibilities](#)
3. [Staff training](#)
4. [The curriculum](#)
5. [Specific types of drug](#)
6. **[Updated]** [Pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol](#)
7. [Medical emergencies](#)
8. [Threatening behaviour](#)
9. [Searching](#)
10. **[Updated]** [Controlled substances](#)
11. [Safeguarding](#)
12. **[Updated]** [Child criminal exploitation \(CCE\)](#)
13. **[Updated]** [Managing incidents](#)
14. [Monitoring and review](#)

### Appendices

- A. **[Updated]** [Unauthorised drug use reporting form](#)

## Statement of intent

Partney Church of England Primary School is committed to keeping pupils safe from drugs and alcohol, both on our premises and in the wider community. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

The school maintains the view that alcohol and drug use on school premises is entirely unacceptable; however, we recognise that zero-tolerance policies have a disproportionately negative impact on some pupils, e.g. victims of child criminal exploitation (CCE). For this reason, we aim to foster an approach of supportive discipline, whereby pupils who are facing issues with drugs and alcohol are aided through both internal and external support, as well as disciplinary measures where appropriate, to make more healthy and positive choices and to reframe their attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.

For the purposes of this policy, a “**drug**” is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

We are committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for the school community.
- Providing a robust policy which outlines our approach to supporting pupils struggling drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- RSHE Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Physical Handling Policy
- Smoke-free Policy
- Exclusion Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board is responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place to make sure that pupils are kept safe from alcohol and drugs at school.
- Ensuring that this policy is maintained and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with alcohol and/or drugs can access the support they need.
- Working with the headteacher, and in liaison with staff, parents, pupils, health and other professionals, to ensure that the relevant curricula, e.g. RSHE and PSHE, addresses the needs of pupils and the local community, and reflects current trends.

The headteacher is responsible for:

- The day-to-day management of this policy.
- Providing a safe environment for all members of the school community.
- Working with governors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Informing the governing board, via the designated safeguarding governor, of any issues and developments concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs and alcohol.
- Informing parents of any drug- and alcohol-related incidents concerning their child, where appropriate and where doing so will not place the child at risk.
- Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- Informing the police of any drug- or alcohol-related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.

- Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug and alcohol incidents.

The DSL is responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs and alcohol.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs and alcohol education.
- Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

Staff are responsible for:

- When required, to attend scheduled training concerning drugs and alcohol, including how to spot the signs and symptoms of use and dependency, identifying paraphernalia, and how to respond to a drug related incident.
- Reporting concerns regarding pupils' use of drugs and alcohol to the DSL.

The site manager is responsible for:

- Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the DSL.

Pupils are responsible for:

- Ensuring they do not bring illegal or prohibited drugs or alcohol onto school premises or whilst engaged in any off-site activity representing the school.
- Ensuring they do not take drugs or consume alcohol whilst travelling to or from school.
- Contributing to the development of this policy by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol education provided, and on how incidents are managed.

External agencies are responsible for supporting the school with drug and alcohol issues as required.

### **3. The curriculum**

All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the relationships and health education curriculum, in line with the Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy.

### **4. Specific types of drug**

#### **Smoking**

In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006 and the school's Smoke-free Policy, the school is a smoke-free environment. Parents, visitors and staff will not smoke or vape on school grounds and must avoid smoking or vaping in front of pupils and/or encouraging pupils

to smoke. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields and sheltered areas.

### **Legal drugs and prescribed medicines**

The school recognises that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and the school will request all relevant information about pupils' medical conditions from parents.

Medicines will only be permitted to be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

The school will only accept medicines which are provided in the original container as dispensed and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

Further guidance can be found in the school's Health and Safety Policy.

### **Solvents**

Pupils will not be permitted to bring solvent-based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosol deodorants, compressed air and aerosol hairspray.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them. More information can be found in the school's COSHH Guidance.

## **5. Pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol**

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be escorted to the headteacher to be assessed.

The school will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the pupil's parent/carer—parents/carers will generally be informed unless the school feels there is a safeguarding concern which means that telling the pupil's parent/carer may put them at risk. Where the school determines parents/carers should be notified, they will be contacted and asked to remove the pupil from the premises. The pupil will remain in the in a room away from other pupils until their parent/carer arrives. In the event the school chooses not to inform the pupil's parents, the pupil will be taken to a room away from other pupils, where they will be given water and offered pastoral support.

## **6. Medical emergencies**

In drug- or alcohol-related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned and care will be provided in line with the First Aid Policy (See Health and Safety Policy). A staff member will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives. Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made as to whether an ambulance will be called. The pupil's parent/carer will be telephoned and told about the incident.

An [Unauthorised Drug Use Reporting Form](#) will be completed and uploaded with a full report onto My Concern.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services will be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported to the HSE as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

Threatening behaviour

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, the school will contact the police where necessary.

Any pupil displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises. If a pupil displays this kind of behaviour, their parents/cares will be contacted and in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **7. Searching**

Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Staff members may use common law to search pupils for any item with their consent.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search. There must be two members of staff present, along with the pupil's parent or carer.

## **8. Controlled substances**

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation alongside the name of any witness(es) present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location.

The incident will be reported immediately to the police, who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.

The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether it is appropriate under the pupil's specific circumstances to divulge the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken, and names will not be given to the police where the school cannot be certain beyond reasonable doubt that the pupil in question was the one in possession of the drugs.



A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher.

Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the parents of the pupil, as well as local police, will be notified.

## **9. Safeguarding**

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **10. Child criminal exploitation (CCE)**

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being forced to work in cannabis factories and being coerced into moving drugs across the country (known as county lines).

Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE:

- Pupils who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Pupils who associate with other young people involved in exploitation
- Pupils who suffer from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Pupils who misuse drugs and alcohol
- Pupils who regularly miss school

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by pupils may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which they have consented. The DSL will use their professional judgement to ensure they can reasonably rule out CCE as an explanation for a pupil's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the pupil's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

## **11. Managing incidents**

Instances of pupils being involved in drug and/or alcohol incidents will be managed in line with the relevant school policies, including the Behaviour Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Following an incident, the headteacher will work with key members of staff, including the DSL, to decide on the most appropriate course of action to take. This action may include discipline being enforced in line with the Behaviour Policy, or informing the police in severe circumstances.

The headteacher will also be responsible for deciding if it would be appropriate to exclude the pupil, following the provisions outlined in the school's Exclusion Policy; however, every effort will be taken to support pupils to adopt more healthy behaviours and choices before resorting to exclusion. Exclusion will be avoided wherever possible for pupils whose parents or carers are known to the school to misuse alcohol and drugs.

Support will be arranged for pupils involved in any alcohol- or drug-related incidents, in line with relevant school policies.

## **12. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years by the headteacher in liaison with the DSL.

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to staff and all relevant stakeholders. The next scheduled review date is Spring 2026

# Unauthorised drug use reporting form

Guidance on completing this form:

- Do not identify the pupil involved
- Copy the form once completed
- Send a copy of the form to the headteacher within 24 hours of the incident taking place
- Record the pupil's name and hand it directly to the School DSL

What type of incident are you reporting? (Tick as appropriate)

- |   |                          |  |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Pupil in possession of unauthorised drugs             | <input type="checkbox"/> | Drug paraphernalia found on school premises          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pupil supplying unauthorised drugs on school premises | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disclosure of parental drug misuse                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pupil disclosure of drug use                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | Parent expressing concern over potential drug misuse | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Emergency intoxication                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | Incident occurring outside school premises           | <input type="checkbox"/> |

General details		Pupil information	
Date of incident:		Form:	
Time of incident:			
Has the pupil been involved in previous incidents?		Age:	
Incident details			
Drug involved (if known):			
Staff involved:			
Use this space to describe the incident:			
Has any further action been taken (e.g. contacting the police, pupils and staff informed, other agencies involved)?			
First aid details			
Was first aid given?			
If yes, who gave the first aid?			

Was an ambulance or doctor called?	
Who called them?	
What time were they called?	
<b>Drug details</b>	
Were any drugs found/removed?	
Where were they found/seized?	
Name of witness:	
Signature of witness:	
Disposal arrangements:	
Police incident number (where applicable):	
<b>Parental details</b>	
Were parents informed?	
Reason for deciding not to inform parents, where applicable:	
Name of parent informed, where applicable:	
Who informed them of the incident?	
At what time were they informed?	
<b>Administrative details</b>	
Form completed by:	
Job role:	
Signature:	
<b>Follow-up action taken</b>	