



Roman Road
Primary School

Drugs Education & Incidents
Policy

September 2023
Review September 2025
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Introduction

Our school is guided by the first of four strategies outlined in the document Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain : *The Government's 10 Year Strategy for Tackling Drug Misuse*.

Our primary objective is to help young people resist drug misuse so they can achieve their full potential in society.

Drug : a psychotropic substance – all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over the counter and prescription drugs
As defined in *The Right Approach : Quality Standards in Drug Education*
SCODA 1999

Aims of the Policy

We aim for every child :

- to have the confidence and self esteem to value themselves and others
- to develop confidence in talking, listening and thinking about drug related issues
- to have the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs
- to be able to make healthy informed choices
- to understand the consequences of their actions and behave responsibly
- to be able to recognise unsafe situations and be able to protect themselves and ask for help and support
- to understand the role the media plays in forming attitudes

We also aim to provide a supportive environment and well-structured procedures for any member of the school community who requires intervention for drug use. Drug use will require interventions such as management, education, advice and information, and prevention work to reduce the potential for harm. (*The Right Approach*)

Drug Use : drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, smoking, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately perceptible.
(*The Right Approach*)

Responsibilities

The Deputy Head is responsible for the coordination and organisation of Drugs Education. This includes keeping up-to-date with local and national issues, disseminating this information to staff, organisation of resources to complement the summer term focus week and reviewing the policy in a three year cycle.

Ultimate responsibility for the development and delivery of Drugs Education and oversight of incidents rests with the Head Teacher and Governors of the school.

Resources

Resources will be purchased which are accessible and relevant to all the pupils. They will be centrally stored.

Consultation

This Policy reflects ongoing practice within the school over a three year period. Teachers and governors will be consulted during the ongoing development and regular review of the policy.

Drugs Education

Our school has made a commitment to provide a drugs education curriculum which meets the statutory requirements set out in the National Curriculum Science document and Newham’s Scheme of Work Guidelines.

| Drugs Education Programme | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | Focus |
| Lower Key Stage 1 | Knowing to avoid harmful substances including medicines and cleaning products found in the home. |
| Lower Key Stage 2 | Distinguishing between good and bad drugs. Anti smoking. Dangers and health problems and social drawbacks |
| Upper Key Stage 2 | What are the commonly available substances that children are aware of? What are their affects and risks. What does the law say. How does the media portray drugs. Also focus on alcohol. To understand about legal and illegal drugs. What the law says. Make positive healthy decisions when faced with choices and peer pressure |

The programme reflects a balance between personal and social skills, knowledge and understanding, and attitudes and values. The content has been carefully planned to build into a comprehensive scheme which empowers our pupils to make healthy informed choices and prepares them for the responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Class Teachers’ Responsibilities

All teachers who contribute to the programme of teaching are expected to work within the school’s stated aims so parents and carers, pupils and

governors can be reassured that personal beliefs and attitudes will not influence the teaching of Drugs Education.

If a teacher has reason to suspect drug use by a pupil, it is good practice to look at factors such as:

- pupil attendance
- behavioural patterns
- change in academic attainment
- personal relationships with other pupils and staff
- physical appearance
- external factors / family issues

before discussion with the designated person.

Dealing with questions

Our school staff will always answer questions in a professional manner, giving appropriate age-related information in a clear and simple fashion. Children will be encouraged to discuss their questions with parents and carers. Class teachers may also speak to parents where appropriate.

Equal Opportunities, Special Needs & Providing for Children with English as an Additional Language

All teaching and non-teaching staff are responsible for ensuring that the pupils in their care, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, language group, disability, religious beliefs, social circumstances and ability, have equal access to the whole curriculum and equal opportunity to undertake all aspects of work in P.E. in order to make the maximum progress.

First Aid

If an incident arises for which emergency first aid is required, first aiders should follow the advice recommended in Appendix 2.

Drugs Incidents

The school will follow the process set out in the Local Authority guideline *Schools Drug Education and Pastoral Guidelines and The Right Responses : Managing and making policy for drug-related incidents in schools.* (see Appendix 1)

Any incidents will be recorded and these records will be kept by the Head Teacher. They will be treated as confidential records. The school's Confidentiality Policy and Child Protection Policy will also be taken into account.

Every incident will be dealt with on an individual basis, depending on the severity of the case. However, our school will provide a combination of follow up support strategies for any of our pupils involved in drug incidents. These may include:

- a pastoral support programme
- counselling through recognised agencies
- mentoring
- supervised break times
- involvement in extra curricular activities
- family conferencing

Sanctions will always be used alongside this support and will be used in proportion to the offence.

Specific Issues

Alcohol

The school premises are an alcohol free zone. The school does not allow any alcohol to be brought onto or consumed during those times when children are on the premises.

Smoking

Our school is a designated no smoking area. Members of staff wishing to smoke should walk down to the Roman Road exit and smoke only when outside the Local Authority boundaries.

Management of Prescribed Medicines

The school will not, as a matter of course administer medicine to a pupil.

If a pupil needs to bring a prescribed medicine into school, the following guidelines must be adhered to:

- Permission must be sought from the Head Teacher for medicine to be brought onto the premises.
- Parents and carers will be offered the opportunity to attend school at lunchtime to administer doses of medicine to their children.
- A letter from the parent explaining the nature of the illness and the dosage required must be provided.
- The medicine must be stored in the relevant container in a secure space.
- All precautions should be taken to ensure that only the pupil for whom the medicine is prescribed, takes the medicine.
- Training will be provided to first aiders for the administering of Epi-pens to those children who have a care plan in the event of an anaphylactic attack.
- Epi-pens will be stored in individual containers, labelled clearly with the child's name.

Management of Solvents

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvents or aerosols into school. This includes tippex fluid and pens, tippex thinners, glue, marker pens and spray deodorants. Pupils are permitted to bring felt tip pens to school.

All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and usage of solvents in their classroom. Where possible they should be locked away when not in use. This includes white board markers, glues and paints.

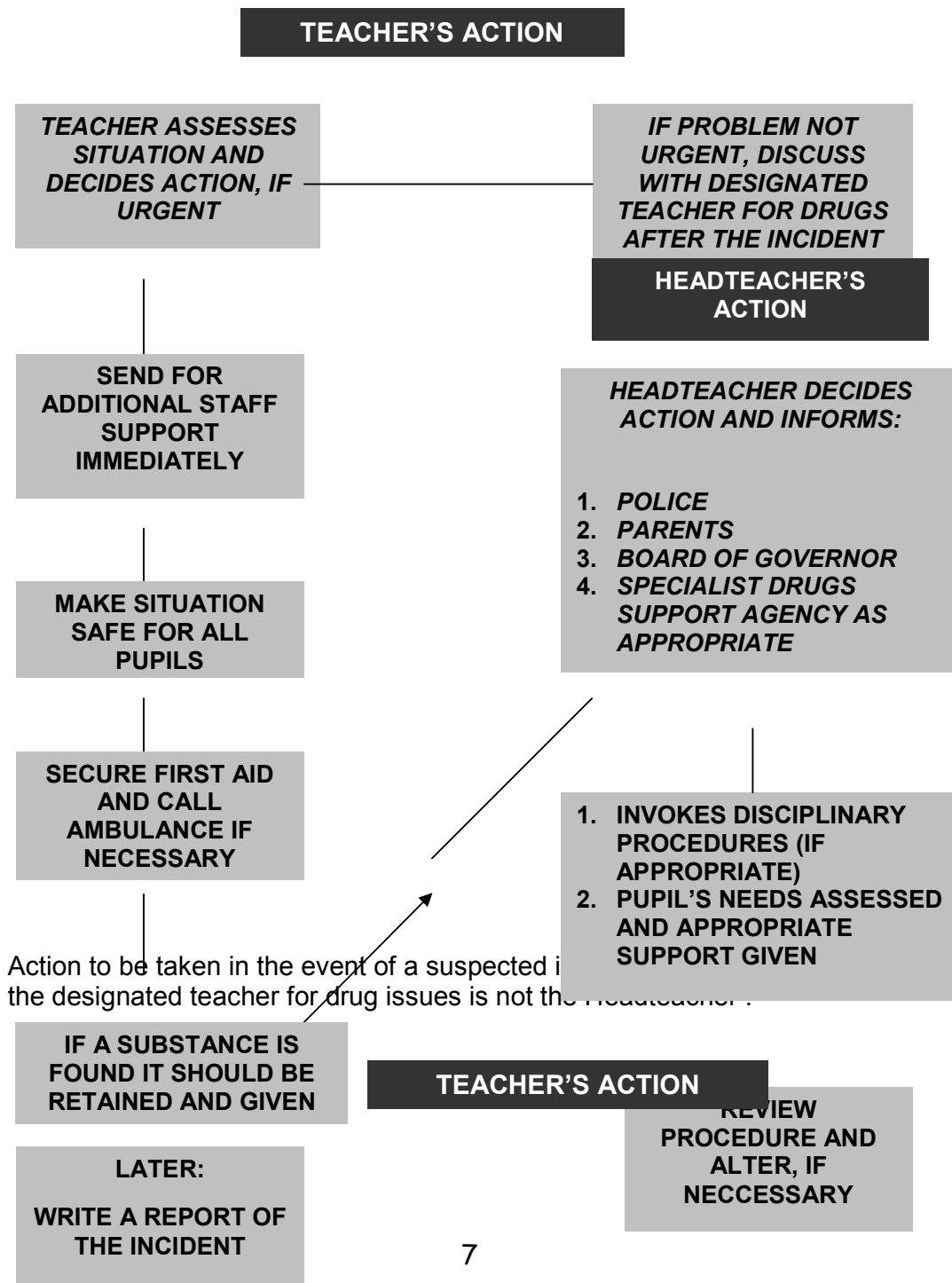
The cleaners and caretakers should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place.

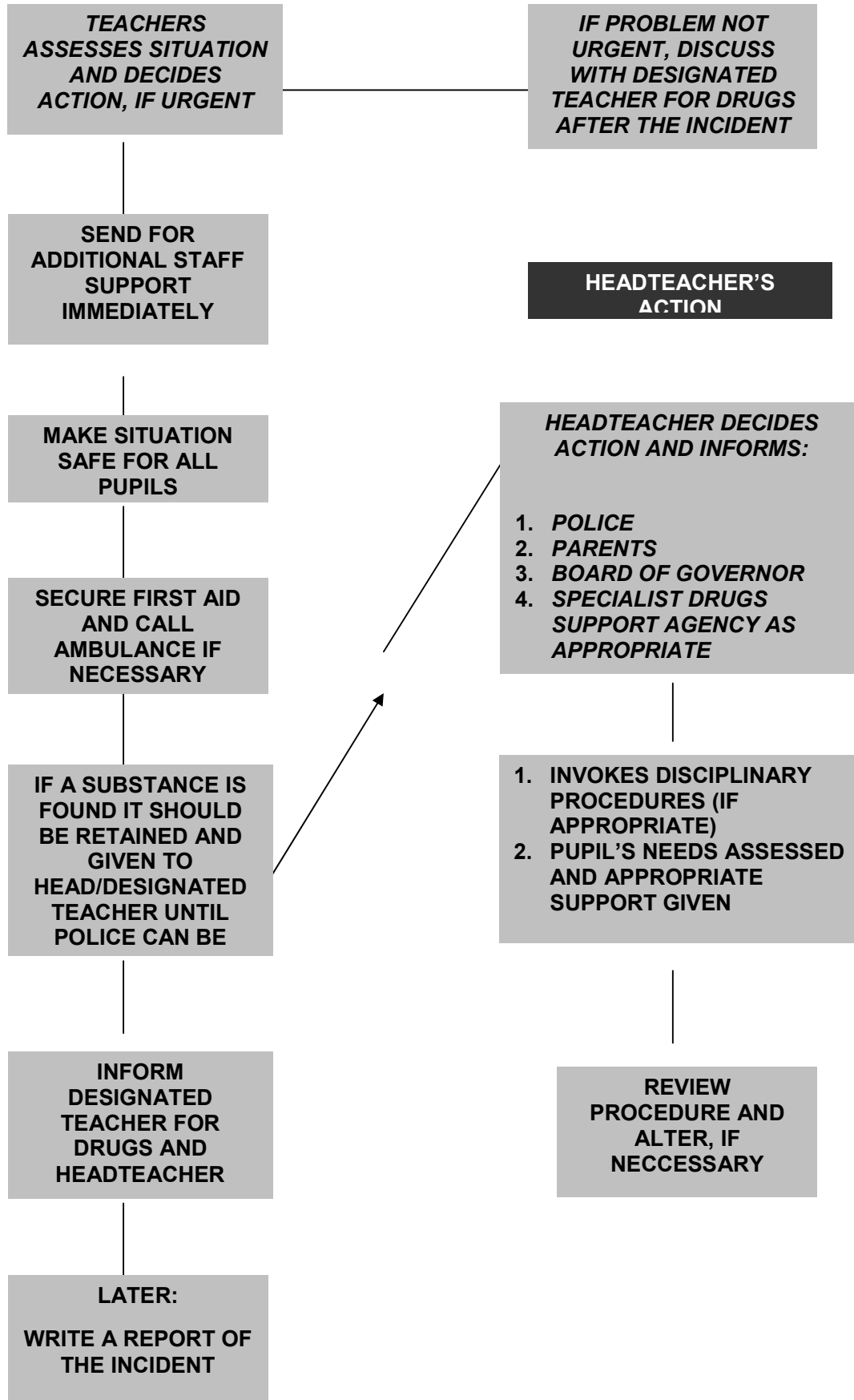
APPENDIX 1

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING INCIDENTS

(From The Right Response : Managing and Making Policy for Drug-Related Incidents in Schools)

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the designated teacher for drug issues is the Headteacher:





APPENDIX 2 – EMERGENCY FIRST AID

(From The Right Response : Managing and Making Policy for Drug-Related Incidents in Schools)

Emergency Action for all members of the school community:

In the event of finding someone collapsed and unconscious, summon help and follow these procedures until help arrives:

1. Check that the mouth is free of obstruction and the airway clear.
2. If necessary pull the tongue forward
3. Loosen clothing at the neck-line
4. Place the person in the recovery position with the head forward (refer to illustrations of recovery position next page)
5. Check for chest movement and colour of face, lips and tongue; if these begin to turn blue, a person qualified in first aid should resuscitate

Our Policy will be reviewed every three years with Governors.

This policy was agreed by the Governing Body on:

This Policy will be reviewed on: September 2025

Signature of Chair of Governors-----
