

Quality standards for effective alcohol and drug education

Guidance for teachers

Alcohol and drug education is a statutory part of the science curriculum for schools in England, and this can be built on through the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. By building pupils' resilience, values and skills around alcohol and drugs, teachers help young people develop the life skills to enter adulthood healthy and avoiding harms.

These quality standards for alcohol and drug education have been drafted to provide authoritative and practical support and guidance to schools and external organisations involved in the delivery of alcohol and drug education and prevention. The main purpose is to enable schools and those that work with schools shaping the context and delivery of alcohol and drug education.

Mentor strongly recommends all those interested in using the quality standards to download the full version (please see the following link for more info <http://mentor-adepis.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Quality-standards-for-alcohol-and-drug-education.pdf>) and the related self-assessment forms available on the ADEPIS website.

These standards will ensure that schools and practitioners:

- Meet their statutory obligation to promote children's wellbeing and developing a healthy environment.
- Meet their statutory obligations to deliver alcohol and drug education within the National Science Curriculum and to expand it through PSHE education.
- Provide evidence of effectiveness for Ofsted inspections.

How can you use the quality standards?

Schools can use the quality standards to review their performance, address existing issues, design and execute an action plan to meet unrealised criteria, and set a date for reviewing their progress.

Each quality standard and related sub-criteria represents a starting point for the school review. For each standard and criteria, schools will be advised to assess and evidence their current practice using the self-assessment form, following the examples provided.

The quality standards cover three areas:

- [Delivering effective alcohol and drug education in the classroom](#) focuses on what happens in the classroom. This set of standards has specific recommendations to ensure the provision of effective alcohol and drug education.
- [School context for effective alcohol and drug education](#) covers the wider context of alcohol and drug issues in the school context.
- [Staff policies and safeguarding](#) are standards aimed at external agencies or contributors delivering alcohol and drug education in schools. It outlines essential safeguarding and confidentiality policies to ensure the protection of school pupils, organisational staff members or volunteers.

Who these standards are for	What areas are covered	Main objectives
<p><i>Primary and secondary schools</i></p> <p><i>Independent practitioners</i></p> <p><i>Anyone delivering alcohol and drug education in formal or informal environments</i></p>	<p>Delivering effective alcohol and drug education in the classroom focuses on what happens in the classroom.</p> <p>This set of standards has specific recommendations to ensure the provision of effective alcohol and drug education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effectiveness of the approaches and clarity of objectives • Evidence based • Clear strategies are in place to ensure safety of the learning environment and avoid harm • Positive social norms are reinforced • Learning is interactive • Resources are appropriate for their audience, providing accurate and relevant information
<p><i>School leaders and governing bodies</i></p> <p><i>Members of staff in primary and secondary schools</i></p>	<p>School context for effective alcohol and drug education covers the wider context of alcohol and drug issues in the school context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear leadership support • A written alcohol and drug policy • High quality training and support for teachers involved • Clear processes and needs assessment to provide timely delivery and support pupils with additional needs • Parents and carers are aware of the school's approach to alcohol and drugs and have opportunities to be actively involved.
<p><i>External agencies delivering alcohol and drug education within schools and employing staff and/or volunteers</i></p>	<p>Staff policies and safeguarding are standards aimed at external agencies or contributors delivering alcohol and drug education in schools.</p> <p>It outlines essential safeguarding and confidentiality policies to ensure the protection of school pupils, organisational staff members or volunteers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HR policies are clearly set out and in line with relevant legislation • Volunteers adhere to a clear volunteer agreement • Rules regarding the involvement of staff or volunteers with previous or current problems, including alcohol or drug misuse • There are clear, safe recruitment processes for staff and volunteers • There is effective support and supervision for all staff and volunteers (especially new ones) • The organisation has a clear policy on safeguarding • Clear understanding of and strict abidance to the school's policies on safeguarding, confidentiality and disclosure