



St Mary's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy

Drugs Education Policy

**“With Christ at the centre, we show
Unity, Respect, Joy, Love and Courage.”**

St Mary's School Mission Statement

Policy review date- Autumn 2023

Person Responsible- Helen Tomlinson

Ratified by Academy Council- Autumn 2023

Review date- Autumn 2024

Rationale

The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will act to safeguard their well-being. This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working with schools.

Requirements of the Policy

All schools are required to have a drug education programme as part of their PSHE provision and also a policy describing how they will respond to drug related incidents.

Aims of the Policy

The aim of this Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.

A drugs education policy ensures that schools take a whole school approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy school. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's discipline policy.

Definition

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the school. Exceptions will be made for adults and pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

Teaching Drugs Education

The school provides drugs education as part of the PSHE Programme of Study and appropriate to our children's needs.

Drugs education:

- enables pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and exploring their own and other people's attitudes.
- promotes positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provides accurate information about substances
- increases understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourages an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use

- widens their understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime effects of different drugs (legal and illegal).
- seeks to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- enables young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Foundation stage -Early learning goals

- To know ways to keep healthy and safe.

Key Stage One

Children will be taught:

- about what can go into bodies and how it can make people feel
- about what can go on to bodies and how it can make people feel
- why medicines are taken
- where medicines come from
- about keeping themselves safe around medicines

Key Stage Two

Children will be taught:

- the definition of a drug and that drugs (including medicines) can be harmful to people
- about the effects and risks of smoking tobacco and second-hand smoke
- about the help available for people to remain smoke free or stop smoking
- that there are drugs (other than medicines) that are common in everyday life, and why people choose to use them
- about the effects and risks of drinking alcohol
- about different patterns of behaviour that are related to drug use
- that medicines can be used to manage and treat medical conditions such as asthma, and that it is important to follow instructions for their use
- about the risks associated with smoking drugs, including cigarettes, e-cigarettes
- about different influences on drug use – alcohol, tobacco and nicotine products
- strategies to resist pressure from others about whether to use drugs – smoking drugs and alcohol
- about the risks associated with using different drugs, including tobacco and nicotine products, alcohol, solvents, medicines and other legal and illegal drugs
- about assessing the level of risk in different situations involving drug use
- about ways to manage risk in situations involving drug use

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. The Academy Council will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

Management of Drugs in school

Any use of illegal or unauthorized drugs including tobacco are not acceptable at any time within the boundary of the school and other situations where staff are supervising children eg school trips and residential visits.

Prescribed medicines for pupils who need them are kept in the school office or in the fridge in the staff room. They are taken with the class teacher for offsite activities. (see Administration of medicines policy). St Mary's Catholic Primary School has a no smoking policy. Smoking is not allowed on the school premises at any time. This policy applies to all temporary or permanent staff including supply teachers. This policy applies to all visitors to the school.

Management of substance misuse issues.

If a member of staff is concerned a pupil is at risk from drugs misuse they must speak to the Headteacher. If there are concerns about the safety of the child or if there is a clear child protection issue the Headteacher as the DSL needs to be informed. If a pupil discloses information about drug misuse it is important to listen, not guarantee confidentiality and report this to the DSL.

When instances involving substance misuse or the supply of substances on the premises occur, the pupil's parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher, unless it is linked to an abuse case. The school and parents can then work together to support the young person involved. All incidents will be logged.

If a child is suspected of having on their person illegal or unauthorized drugs then they will be asked to produce them so that they can be stored securely. This will be done in the presence of a witness. If a substance is found the incident will be recorded with the date and time of retrieval, size and appearance of the substance, names of those concerned and the action taken.

If there is sufficient evidence to suggest that a search on school premises is required then that will occur by the Headteacher in the presence of a witness. Staff will not search children or their belongings. If it is necessary to carry out a search a police officer will be required who will only carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance. The child will be accompanied by a member of staff or their parent.

Drug paraphernalia and suspected illegal or unauthorized drugs will be handled with great care, following HHC health and safety guidelines. These will be stored securely as evidence and for safe disposal. Parents of the child will be informed.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the member of staff who it is disclosed to has a duty to inform the Headteacher.

If drugs are found on the school site the police will be informed. A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of any illegal drug. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved and as much information regarding the incident as possible, will be passed to the Police.

In the event of an adult being under the influence of legal or illegal drugs on site or with the intent to supply them then the police will be notified if necessary. The safety of the children must come first. They will be directed towards support and advice.

The Academy Council will be involved in drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Dissemination of the policy

The policy will be disseminated to staff and governors following the review. A copy is located in the school's policy file in the office.

Please also refer to the following policies

Health and Safety, Child protection, Behaviour policy and PSHE long-term plan.