



Drug Education Policy

MISSION STATEMENT

This is our school St Werburgh's and St Columba's
A place to be inspired, be accepted, be yourself and be unique.
Be able to grow spiritually, academically and morally.
Be able to contribute to the community and be a responsible global citizen.
Be able to reach for the stars and fulfil your potential.
A place, providing an excellent Catholic education for everyone.
Where we belong, where everyone belongs.

Action: Autumn 2024
Review: Autumn 2028

Drugs refer to **all drugs** including **medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco** and **illegal drugs**.

This policy has been developed in accordance with Drugs: Guidance for schools (2004), the National Healthy School Standard, Drug Education (2004) and National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), Alcohol Education (2007).

This whole school policy has been developed in line with legal requirements and non-statutory guidance and which complement the aims of the PSHE programme.

Introduction

“Drug Education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others’ actions.

Drug Education – Curriculum Guidance for Schools 2004

“All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risks and effects of drugs”.

Stephen Twigg MP

Drug Education – Curriculum Guidance for Schools 2004

Rationale

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Purpose

The objectives of our drug education policy are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people’s lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives.
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices.
- to ensure all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Role of the Head Teacher

- Dissemination of policy to school community.
- Effective implementation of policy.
- Ensuring staff training.
- To ensure that all adults who work with pupils on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- To monitor, review and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy on a regular basis and report to the Governors on request.
- Liaising with the LA and health organisations to ensure best advice available.

The Role of Governors

- Supporting the Head Teacher in following the guidelines.
- Informing and consulting with parents about the drug education policy.
- Building a positive and supportive relationship with parents through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation.
- Liaising with the LEA and health organisations to ensure best advice available and ensuring that the school policy is in line with National and Local guidelines.

The Role of Parents

- Being aware that the primary role in pupil's drug education is a shared responsibility.
- Supporting the key messages being given to pupils at school.
- Accessing training opportunities where appropriate.
- Being aware of the materials/resources used to teach drug education at the school.

The context of drug education

Drug education in school is a planned component of PSHE and Citizenship. Our programme aims to provide pupils with opportunities to:

- Increase their knowledge and understanding of the risks and consequences of legal and illegal drugs.
- Explore their own and others' attitudes and values towards drugs and drug users.
- Develop their personal and social skills so they feel able to communicate effectively, recognise choices, make decisions and access help when needed.
- Appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.
- Recognise they are unique, valuable and irreplaceable.
- Engage in activities and opportunities aiming to maximise learning.
- Identify factual information relevant to age and level of understanding.

Delivery of Drug Education

Drug education is delivered via PSHE during the school day and forms part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthier lifestyle for pupils. It is facilitated. On occasions we will seek support from external visitors, such as our School Health Adviser, the Police or specialist agencies to enhance the drug education programme.

Ground rules are negotiated with pupils to ensure that drug education is delivered within a positive supportive environment.

A positive partnership with the parents of our pupils is very important and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and co-operation.

Throughout the drug education programme, we promote active learning approaches, reflective questioning, differentiation and a range of groupings to encourage pupils to explore issues, reflect on the dangers of misuse and listen to the views of others, maximising the opportunity to learn.

When teaching drug education, we believe there should be an emphasis on teaching about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle throughout the curriculum used. We follow the National Curriculum and deliver drug education sensitively and Key Stage appropriate. The main focus in each Key Stage is:

At Key Stage 1 pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

At Key Stage 2 pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances and illegal drugs (Year 6) and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn how to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their action.

Monitoring and evaluating drug education

We monitor the effectiveness of the drug education programme. The PSHE Co-ordinator has the overall responsibility for monitoring the impact of drugs education, acting upon the information and making the necessary changes.

Assessment of learning

Through the on-going monitoring and evaluating process, the school provides assessment of, pupil progress in line with the End of Key Stage Statements for PSHE. The assessment identifies what knowledge and understanding they have gained and skills they have developed. We use pupil, peer and teacher assessment to establish that learning has taken place.