



St Mary's C of E Primary School Drug Policy – Autumn 2017

Introduction

Our school believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

The policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues and parental discussions. The policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes, and the drug education programme complements this.

Rationale

St Mary's Primary School recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

Drugs Education in Context

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential and within the programme pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self-confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

Objectives

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.



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- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

The Range of Substances

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks. As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- 'over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- volatile substances such as glues and aerosols
- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

The Content of Drugs Education

Drug education should not be seen as a one off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues. Our scheme of work for each year is as follows and each year group is provided planning and resources by the Christopher Winter Project – *Teaching Drug and Alcohol Education with Confidence in Primary Schools* :

Year 1 Medicines and People Who Help Us

Staying Healthy
Medicines
Who gives us medicines?

Year 2 Keeping Safe

Risk
Hazardous Substances
Safety Rules

Year 3 Smoking

Why People Smoke
Physical Effects of Smoking
Smoking and Society

Year 4 Alcohol

Effects of Alcohol
Alcohol and Risk
Limits to Drinking Alcohol

Year 5 Legal and Illegal Drugs

Legal and Illegal Drugs
Attitudes to Drugs



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Peer Pressure

Year 6 **Preventing Early Use**
Cannabis
VSA and Getting Help
Help, Advice and Support

Drugs education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects, such as, Religious Education, Literacy and Physical Education, there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives.

Outside Agencies

St Mary's Primary School may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme have been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency.
- DBS disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.
- We have used the Drugs Freeze programme (delivered by Guildford Flames) and also Coram Education's Lifebus to supplement our Drugs Education teaching.

Links with Parents

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

Administering Medicines (Drugs) at School

St Mary's School follows the Surrey County Council guidance for Administration of Medicines in school.

Procedures for Handling and Reporting Incidents Involving Drugs

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises.
- A pupil / adult suspected of / found being in possession of drugs.
- A pupil / adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs.
- Disclosures about drug use.

Role of the Member of Staff for Drug Related Incidents

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe.
- Send for support.
- Inform the office if an ambulance is required.
- Administer first aid if necessary (NB Nil by mouth).
- Inform the Headteacher.
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place by the Headteacher with a witness until dealt with by the police. The ambulance crew may need to see the drugs, too.
- Write a report of the incident for the Headteacher (DSLO).



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If a child discloses that he or she or the family are involved in drugs, the member of staff should:

- Follow the Child Protection Policy with regard to confidentiality, recording and reporting the disclosure.

Confidentiality

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs or this is happening within their family, the teacher should make it clear that he or she cannot offer a guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. A record will be made of the disclosure and given to the Head Teacher / DSLO.

The Role of the Headteacher for Drug Related Incidents

The Head Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. The role includes:

- Following the Safeguarding Policy for disclosures.
- Receiving any substance found in school.
- Informing the parents (in cases of disclosure re family this may not be appropriate).
- Informing the Chair of Governors when appropriate.
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities (eg police, social services) on any drug related incident.
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incident.

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Next review due: Autumn 2017



Appendix 1 - Handling Incidents

