

ST MARY'S CE (A) FIRST SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT FOR DRUGS EDUCATION

Philosophy

As a Christian community, St Mary's is committed to the health and safety of its school community and will take action to safeguard the well being of all. We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle (particular related to the dangers posed by drug taking). Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping the children to become more confident and responsible young people who are equipped to make informed moral and social decisions.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working with our school. 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. Through our vision of the Good Samaritan, we ensure we have the correct knowledge and provision to care for all our community.

Aims

- The aim of the 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.
- To provide information about procedures, in response to any drug-related incident, and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.
- To ensure 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. There is a commonly held understanding of the term 'drug' and children who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.
- To have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's discipline policy.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of and work within the remit of the Safeguarding Guidelines.
- To have an agreed procedure for administration of medicine during the school day.
- To provide and consistently deliver a planned curriculum that covers both statutory National Curriculum Science and the PHSE guidelines. This teaching and learning will be provided within a caring environment that emphasises respect for self and others and also enables children to take responsibility for their own actions.
- To have an identifiable procedure for any drug related incident that occurs in school time whether on the school premises or off site, where children are under the care of school staff.
- To ensure that the main concern in managing a drugs incident is the health and safety of all in the school and the care of each child.

Objectives

- To ensure that all adults working in the school environment (employed, voluntary, visiting) provide positive role models by following all policies relevant to 'drugs'.
- To provide children with the knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.
- To develop the understanding that taking drugs is a moral issue and provide a safe environment in which children are confident to discuss thoughts and ideas.
- To help children become more self confident so that they are able to make sensible, informed decisions.
- To inform children what to do if they should come across drugs or are aware that other people are misusing drugs.
- To support children in developing a healthy respect for their own bodies and, in doing so, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drugs abuse.

Guidelines

Definition

Drugs are those that are legal - alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs - 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 is appropriate to our children's needs.

- It enables pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and exploring their own and other people's attitudes.
- It promotes positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- It provides accurate information about substances
- It increases understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- It encourages an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- It widens their understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime effects of different drugs (legal and illegal).
- It seeks to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- It enables young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

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 CE(A) First School has a no smoking policy. Smoking or vaping is not allowed on the school premises at any time. This policy applies to all staff including supply teachers, volunteers and visitors.

Management of substance misuse issues.

- If a teacher is concerned that a pupil is at risk from drugs misuse they must speak to the Head Teacher.
- If there are concerns about the safety of the child or if there is a clear child protection issue, the Head Teacher 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 Head Teacher, 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 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. Staff will not search children or their belongings. Parents of the child will be informed.
- If drugs are found on the school site the police will be informed.
- 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.

In the event of a parent/carer being under the influence of legal or illegal drugs on site, the Head Teacher will make the decision to inform the Safeguarding Team and follow safeguarding advice on whether the police will be called. An appropriate family member will be called, to ensure the safety of the child.

- The Governing Body will be involved in drug education and 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.
- Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the LEA Policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

Monitoring

Governor Health & Safety Committee, Senior Management
Science and PHSE Managers
Review every two years

Reviewed March 2023

Agreed by Governors

Review March 2025

Appendix 1

These guidelines are based on Drugs Guidance for schools Dfes 2004, and were originally developed after discussions between senior managers and parents. All parents/carers were invited to a meeting to discuss the implications of drafting a policy. A second meeting was called to discuss the information given at the first meeting and decisions related to definitions and actions. The guidelines were then written and presented to staff, governors and school nurse. It was agreed that all parents will need to be given a copy of the policy and guidelines on their child's registration into the school. Parents and Carers will be invited to comment on any amendments made to the document following policy review.

This policy is linked to the following policies:

- Administration of Medicine
- Asthma
- Behaviour and Discipline
- Equal opportunities
- Health and Safety

• Confidentiality

Total confidentiality cannot be promised. Staff will honour requests not to disclose sensitive information to the best of their ability but this may be unavoidable if they are to fulfil professional and legal duties. They are bound by the Safeguarding Policy, the need to co-operate with police investigations and by referrals to external services.

If there is a concern for the safety of a pupil where a parent/carer appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs staff will retain care of the pupil and contact First Response.

• Defining School Boundaries

'School boundaries' are defined as the time when children are in the care of school staff whether on school premises or off site (e.g. includes school trips and residential visits)

• Defining Drug Incidents

This definition will include Illegal drugs, associated paraphernalia, tobacco, alcohol and volatile substances.

Incidents may include suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of illegal or unauthorised drugs and would fit into the following categories (Drugs Guidance for schools Dfes)

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on premises
- A pupil demonstrates, through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- A pupil or adult is found in possession of above listed items
- A pupil or adult is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- A pupil, parent /carer or member of staff is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegal sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs

Actions – the following are only to be taken by senior managers (unless it involves unauthorised medication which can be confiscated by any member of staff). If the incident occurs off site the children will be returned to school or a senior manager contacted as soon as possible

• Searches

The need to conduct a search will be invoked if staff are concerned that there may be any of the above listed items in school or on a person off site but under the care of teachers

- School will ensure that there are two adults present and that the discussion will take place away from other children in order to minimise embarrassment or distress.
- Staff will ask permission to look into drawers, lockers that are the property of the school. If permission is not given staff will explain that for the safety of all children a search will have to take place
- Staff will attempt to persuade children to empty the contents of pockets or bags. In the case of illegal drugs and paraphernalia, if permission is not given, police will be contacted to conduct the search. Parent will also be notified in order to be present when the search takes place

- **Confiscation and Disposal**

- In the case of illegal drugs and paraphernalia the police will be contacted and asked to dispose of any items
- In the case of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances the school will confiscate and dispose items after notifying parents/carers.
- In the case of unauthorised medication the school will confiscate, inform parents and require them to collect said items. (Authorised medication is also the responsibility of parents to collect and dispose of unused medication and to check dates of expiry)