



St. Mary's CE Primary School, Davyhulme
Drugs Education POLICY



All the activities in St Mary's School are carried out in the Christian spirit and should promote the school values of Faith, Family and Future – Building a positive future for all as part of God's loving family.

This subject policy is one in a series that is part of the PSHE curriculum for the school. This policy states the school's philosophy on how Drugs Education will make a contribution towards our pupil's education.

At St. Marys CE Primary we are committed to the health, safety and general well being of all the members of the school community. Through our Drugs Education curriculum we aim to equip our pupils with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and strategies to enable them to make safe sensible life choices.

The Drugs Education programme takes account of the National Drugs Strategy and DfEE guidance. This policy also links to other school policies including Personal, Social, Health Education, Behaviour and Discipline, and Medicines policies.

INTENT

- To enable young people to make their own informed decisions.
- To increase young people's awareness of drug use in society.
- To minimise harm from drug use to individuals and communities.
- To safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- To clarify the School's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- To enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Drugs education helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active, responsible citizens. The organisation of drugs education in school will be as an integrated part of the school's Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) program and the Science curriculum (as recommended by the DFEE). The subject will be seen as another aspect of the children's learning experience and will be sensitive to children's understanding and backgrounds.

By 'drugs' we mean all substances that effect our physical and emotional states. This includes medicines, recreational legal drugs such as, alcohol and tobacco, illicit substances such as, solvents and illegal substances. This policy neither condemns nor condones drug use, but seeks to ensure that all pupils receive an effective education that will develop understandings and skills in preparation for future decision making.

We will seek to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all pupils and staff in relation to all aspects of drug use.

TEACHING AND LEARNING In school the drug education curriculum is part of the whole school PSHE curriculum and is covered in cyclical units taught to children in all age groups at age appropriate levels through the Heart Smart programme.

Planning

- Pupils' experience and immediate needs are considered.
- Learning is appropriate and progressive through the spiral nature of the curriculum and pupils' learning.
- Knowledge which is honest and balanced.
- Children are taught skills, examining and assessing risks and dangers, self-confidence, relationships and decision making.
- Positive attitudes towards risks, behaviour, relationships, towards drugs and drug related issues.

Delivery

Drugs Education uses a range of teaching and learning styles to meet the drugs education requirements. We emphasise active learning by including the children in discussions, investigations and problem solving activities. We encourage children to take part in a range of tasks and organise classes in such a way that pupils are able, through discussion, to set agreed classroom rules of behaviour and resolve any conflicts. Children are encouraged to ask questions and reflect on the dangers of drug misuse. They explore issues such as why people take drugs and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. Children are given the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. Circle time is often used as a forum for discussing these issues sensitively. We encourage the children to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We offer children opportunities to hear visiting speakers, such as health workers and the police, whom we invite into the school to discuss their role in creating a positive and supportive local community.

To facilitate pupils learning in Drugs Education we ensure;

- Teachers provide appropriate learning experiences that are planned and meet the needs of all the pupils in the class.
- The purpose of each lesson is made clear.
- Lessons are delivered by a permanent member of staff.
- Learning experiences draw on pupils own experiences or existing knowledge and provide a range of opportunities for pupils to learn, practice and demonstrate skills, attitudes and knowledge and understanding.
- Time is given for pupils to reflect, consolidate and apply their learning. Pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to record their own progress.
- Not impose their views.
- That we are sensitive to pupils background, religion, culture and family membership.
- Not to condemn.
- That we develop ground rules to ensure a non-threatening learning environment.

Assessment

Pupils are not assessed in all areas of the Drugs Education programme, however opportunities for pupils to reflect on their progress are identified. Evidence of pupil's development will occur in a variety of ways:

Assessment are made following a combination of observations, discussions and outcome of work in lessons.

Parental Involvement

St. Mary's is committed to working in partnership with parents/guardians and will endeavour to consult with parents, as widely as possible on the developmental review of the Drugs Education policy and programme. We recognise that parents/guardians are key in teaching their children about drugs and also in establishing their own family culture and values.

PROCEDURES

Medicines: See school policies which refer to the administration of medicines e.g. Asthma awareness. Medicines are safely stored and administered per our Medicines policy

Tobacco: St Mary's is a no-smoking site at all times.

Alcohol: No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day.

Volatile substances: The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, and pupils supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work. The use of aerosols will be banned because of the potential risks to people with asthma or other bronchial problems.

Illegal substances: No illegal substances should be brought to school or used on school premises.

Parents and carers are contacted as soon as the school has evidence of the involvement of pupils with unauthorised drugs.

There needs to be sensitivity to the possibility that parents or carers may themselves be involved with drug use in a way that raises issues of child protection

This school believes we should be a community free of drug misuse. Illegal substances should not be brought into school and use or supply of drugs on the school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness and appropriate authorities informed.

The school will decide when and if to inform the police. A record of all drug related incidents will be kept by our head teacher. Evidence of drug use by a pupil or possession of a substance will be dealt with appropriately.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES:

This Anti-bullying Policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies: •
PSHE Curriculum Policy
Teaching and Learning
SEN and Inclusion
Safeguarding

Further support:

NHS - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/talking-about-drugs-with-your-child/>

Kidscape – www.kidscape.org.uk

NSPCC - <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/drugs-alcohol/>

FRANK <https://www.talktofrank.com/worried-about-a-child>

Childline – 08000 1111



Article 17: Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, and newspapers should provide information that children can understand and should not promote materials that could harm them.

Article 33: Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.

Article 36: Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.