

Brindle St James' Church of England Primary School



Drugs Policy

Jan 2026

PSHE Intent

Our encompassing theme throughout all our PSHE lesson is demonstrating respect and understanding for each other and our differing views and experiences, as a family would. We are a school family rooted in God's love.

As a small Christian family, children build strong relationships, learn to work together and support each other through life's celebrations and challenges. PSHE aims to nurture and develop personal, social as well as the children's understanding of their physical and mental health. This will enable them to develop into responsible citizens with an understanding of our British Values. Children develop independence, confidence and self-worth through friendship and love, where they are encouraged to share and show respect for differing viewpoints and cultural experiences. Much of the understanding of relationships, teamwork, democracy, respect and making safe choices is taught through PSHE but practiced and developed throughout all aspects of school life. We aim that our children are safe, mentally well and able to develop the skills needed to grow into caring, respectful citizens who can achieve their full potential.

Introduction

This policy has been written with reference to and with guidance from the National Drugs Strategy, Healthy Schools - Drugs: guidance for schools; DFES guidance; Ofsted and LEA guidance. This policy complies with DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE). All drug-related incidents will be managed in line with safeguarding duties.

The purpose of our school drug education policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school in regard to drug education;
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school;
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for the whole school community;
- Provide guidance on implementing and monitoring the drug education programme;
- Provide procedures for staff to respond to any drug-related incident ;
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs compliments the overall approach to drug education;
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs;
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

- Our policy applies to all members of the school community whilst on school premises and extends to include journeys in school time e.g. to and from swimming and residential/day trips.

The school is committed to the health and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school will seek to educate pupils on the use and purpose of drugs.

Our policy has been developed with due regard to DfES 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools' and aims to provide a clear, consistent and balanced approach to drug education and incident management. This policy links to other policies i.e. PSHE/Medicines/Behavior/Health and Safety/Child Protection.

Drug awareness education is an integral part of the school PSHE programme and part of the whole school policy, promoting a healthy school environment by the whole staff. The school will promote drug awareness as part of the Lancashire Healthy Schools Programme. The PSHE co-ordinator will ensure that the staff and governing body are aware of up to date educational good practice and current training needs.

Definition of Substances

We adopt the definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as *"a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."* Drugs are taken here to mean those that are **legal**, alcohol, tobacco and solvents/volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and **illegal** drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD etc.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of the pupils. St. James' believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate, (see Medicines policy).

In line with the 2007 legal restrictions on smoking in workplaces and public places, the school and it's premises is a non-smoking area and signs are in position to promote this.

The drinking of alcohol is not permitted on school premises during the teaching day or whilst on residential visits, with the exception of the Eucharistic wine during communion services.

Volatile substances (glitter sprays, paint aerosols, cleaning fluids, glues) will be stored away from children's reach and will be used in well-ventilated rooms.

Illegal substances are not to be tolerated under any circumstance.

Curriculum Issues

The PSHE Co-ordinator is responsible for implementing, resourcing and maintaining the drugs education programme. Content and delivery is in line with agreed standards (refer to 'The Right Choice' 'The Right Approach' and LEA Healthy Schools quality standards for further details) and every effort will be made to ensure that the programme will be appropriate to the age and experience of the pupils.

Aims & Objectives

Drug education at Brindle St James' aims to:

- Help our pupils to recognise that each is unique, valuable and irreplaceable.
- Help our pupils to maintain their own and each other's self-esteem.
- Create a positive and safe climate in which teaching and learning take place where pupils feel comfortable to discuss their perceptions of drug use.
- Use active learning techniques to provide a range of opportunities for learning about drugs and the issues raised by their availability and use.
- Help our pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding of medicines and other drugs and how they are used.
- Help our pupils understand that all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.
- Help our pupils extend and practice the skills they need to cope responsibly in a society where there are drugs.
- Encourage our pupils to manage the increasing responsibility they have for maintaining their own health and safety.

To help our pupils learn who can help them to stay safe, and to understand and practice ways of keeping safe, finding information and advice and asking for help when they need it.

Content

The Drugs elements of the PSHE curriculum will be taught through a program from Coram Education using the SCARF scheme from reception to year 6, supplemented by an annual visit for all classes from the SCARF Education Bus. This scheme follows the National Curriculum Programme of Study and the statutory elements of the National Science Curriculum and is regularly updated.

Resources

Resources are an essential part of teaching Drugs Education as they provide 'hands on experience.' They are important as they can provide a focal point for teaching and understanding. Our Drugs Education resources are located within the staffroom/ staff working area. A full resource list is held within the separate PSHE/Citizenship scheme of work document. All staff are encouraged to suggest resource items that they feel would be useful for a particular unit.

Visitors and Outside Agencies

Visitors and agency professionals can be of value and great care is taken to integrate their input into the teacher led programme. If the programme is dependent upon 'experts' it may convey the message that drugs are 'special' and beyond the remit of teachers. This can have negative consequences and may increase the desire for pupils to experiment. Therefore 'teacher led' programmes are followed at all times.

All visitors are aware of the school drugs policy and issues of confidentiality. Teachers are always present during any additional input which is always delivered in partnership. Teachers are ultimately responsible for what is taught in the classroom and therefore must preview any materials/hand-outs from visitors and the content of visitors' lessons before it is delivered. Teachers must always be present in the classroom when visitors are taking/leading sessions.

Confidentiality and the classroom

"The essence of a confidential relationship is openness and agreement about what, if anything will happen to information disclosed between the two people. It need not always take the form of a promise of secrecy." 'The right Responses'

Within the P.S.H.E. policy of the school, an ethos will be encouraged that enables pupils to feel confident enough to discuss any problems or concerns with staff. Pupils will be made aware that staff also have access to outside agencies who deal with problems in a compassionate and professional way and that these agencies are there to help and support the school.

Teachers and school staff cannot promise children confidentiality when discussing sensitive issues because of their responsibility under the Child Protection Act. Children should be made aware of this prior to any discussions. Visitors contributing to the curriculum work (including the School Nurse) are also bound to this policy. Sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the pupil's rights and needs. All situations should be accurately recorded, including the school responses and the monitoring of pupil progress; records are to be stored in a secure place in the Child Protection File.

All records of drug-related incidents will be stored securely and processed in compliance with GDPR and Data Protection Act requirements.

Substance related incidents

The management of drug-related situations will be co-ordinated through the Headteacher.

The definition of a drug incident is cited as following:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- A pupil is found to be supplying drugs on school premises
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate 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

At Brindle St. James' all substance-related incidents will be taken seriously. The school will consider each incident individually, based on the particular set of circumstances. The school will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the well-being of the school community. A range of responses/sanctions may be used to respond to the identified needs of those involved, including the support of outside agencies. Sanctions might include temporary exclusion for a first case of possession or supplying, to permanent exclusion for repeated possession or supplying, depending on the individual circumstances of the case. The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents.

Implementation of the policy: in incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will be as follows. It should be noted here that, when dealing with drug-related incidents, the school has adopted the procedures as laid out in 'The Right Responses' document and that all staff, parents/carers and pupils will be reminded of these procedures on an annual basis.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as such
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply **on** the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the child and a written record taken, (a second adult witness should be present throughout)
- Parents/carers will be informed by the head teacher as soon as possible, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child
- The support of outside agencies will be sought as appropriate (i.e. School Drugs Advisor etc.)

- If a child admits to using or supplying substances **off** the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the substance co-ordinator, who will inform the head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the head teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the child well
- The police should, however be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs
- If a substance is found the law permits staff to take temporary possession for the purpose of preventing an offence from being committed or continued -**a second adult witness should be present throughout**
- The sample should be put in a plastic bag using gloves and include details of date and time of seizure and witness present. It will be stored in a secure place in the office
- The police will be contacted as soon as possible (**the law does not require school to divulge the name of the pupil**)
- If **alcohol and tobacco** are found parents will be informed and given the opportunity to collect the alcohol or tobacco, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the child
- If **volatile substances** are found they are to be placed in a bin to which the children do not have access, in a locked cupboard in the office
- **Medicines** are covered in the Medicine Policy
- **Drug paraphernalia** (needles or syringes) should be picked using gloves and a litter picker and placed in a sturdy container (tin with a lid or a glass jar - not a drinks can or plastic bottle) - the Health Department of the LEA should be contacted as to the best way to dispose of it
- If a child is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs, staff should not carry out a personal search (including searching of outer clothing and inside pockets) - every effort should be made to persuade the child to hand over voluntarily any drugs, **in the presence of a second adult witness**
- If the individual refuses and school still feel a search is necessary, the police should be contacted to conduct one
- Staff must not search personal property without consent of the pupil. If consent is not given, the head teacher should request permission from the parents/carers
- Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' desks or drawers if they believe drugs to be stored there. **Whenever possible prior consent should always be sought.**

When responding to incidents, care should be taken to avoid overreacting or under reacting to drug misuse. National strategy aims to reduce drug related damage to young people's potential - care should be taken to ensure that sanctions do not adversely affect potential to a greater degree than the substance misuse.

Referral and external support

When necessary, the head teacher may draw on additional support and advice. These do not necessarily need to be drug specific agencies; in some cases, the general youth service or

young people's counselling may be more appropriate. Where possible providing it does not compromise the pupil's safety, the school should seek the involvement of the pupil and the pupil's parents/carers in such a decision. In every situation school should proceed in accordance with the guidance on confidentiality. Where concerns indicate a risk of harm, the school will escalate to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or safeguarding partners in line with statutory guidance.

Possible agencies include:

- The LEA - Education Welfare Service
- Inspire
- The Quit Squad
- We are with you Lancashire

See **Appendix 1**

The needs of the pupils

Pupils will be made aware of various internal and external support structures. Childline and N.S.P.C.C posters will be displayed in a prominent place in school. In Year 6 where a much more detailed drug programme is delivered, access to local and national help lines will be made available. Children who present as being vulnerable to drug misuse will also be supported by being given information when and as it is felt necessary.

Inclusion

Drug education at St. James' will provide equal opportunities for all pupils in its care. It has relevance for all pupils. Particular aspects of the programme may be emphasised or expanded for those children who present as being vulnerable and those with Special Educational needs.

Support for parents / carers and school personnel

School personnel are not immune from substance related problems. Teacher's misuse of illegal drugs, prescription medicines or alcohol can be a disciplinary matter. At St. James' staff are not permitted to drink alcohol on school premises during school hours. A teacher is deemed to be unfit to teach if he or she poses a risk or potential risk to the health and safety of pupils or colleagues. The governing body or the head teacher must take emergency action when they consider a teacher may have become medically incapable of performing teaching duties and is putting pupils or colleagues at risk (DFEE Circular 4/99 and DFEE 2000.)

School management should provide relevant information and access to support for all members of the school community.

Children of drug misusing parents are identified as an at risk group. However, drug misusing by parents does not in itself indicate child neglect or abuse. Where St. James' School becomes aware of family drug misuse it is advisable to contact any appropriate agency for advice prior to any action. Issues of confidentiality will be carefully considered.

Health and safety

St James' school addresses the welfare and pastoral needs of the pupils in our care by:

- Active supervision of pupils
- Procedures for the storage of potentially hazardous materials (chemicals etc)
- Weekly checking of school and grounds for discarded syringes etc. (to be reviewed if more incidents of findings)
- Provision of first aiders and equipment - All staff regularly trained in first aid
First aid boxes in school in key locations

Training

The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. Details of relevant courses will be made available to staff and relevant INSET provided. The school co-ordinator will receive on going, appropriate training. This training will be disseminated to staff through staff meetings by the co-ordinator and to the Welfare Staff as necessary. Governors will be kept informed as is necessary by the drugs education co-ordinator at governors' meetings. Training for staff will be refreshed annually and records of attendance and competency will be maintained by the Headteacher.

Head teacher and Governing body

The head teacher will take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, LEA, parents/carers and agencies.

The head teacher is responsible for the appointment of the teacher with responsibility for drugs education.

As with other matters concerning the direction of the school, the Governing Body has played an active role in the development of this policy and is actively involved in response to this issue.

The child Protection Governor is responsible for drug issues.

Parental involvement

Every effort will be made to involve parents. This may include questionnaires inviting parents for comments, or inviting them to view materials in school.

Dissemination of the policy

The policy will be distributed to all staff and governors and will be available to parents/carers, pupils, and relevant outside agencies. It will be included in induction sessions for new staff, pupils, parents and governors and the policy will be a regular item in staff, SMT and governor meetings to monitor the progress of drug education.

The policy will be made available through the school handbook; staff handbook; parents AGM; governors' meetings; staff meetings; lessons; school prospectus and newsletters.

Monitoring

It will be monitored through:

Recording of delivered drug education content for every class
Recording drug-related incidents and responses
Gathering feedback from pupils, parents and staff
Consultation with key staff in outside agencies
Recording discussions from staff meetings
Looking at the number of drug related incident

This policy will be formally reviewed annually by the Governing Body to ensure compliance with statutory guidance.

Key Documents

- Drugs: Guidance for schools - DfES/0092/2004
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)
- The Right Choice: Guidance on Selecting Drug Education Material for Schools
- The Right Approach: Quality Standards in Drug Education
- The Right Responses: Managing and making Policy for Drugs-related Incidents in Schools

Appendix 1

Useful Contacts

Inspire Drug and Alcohol Support Services Chorley and Preston:

<https://inspirelancs.org.uk/north-and-central/>

NHS Quit Squad:

0800 328 6297

We are with you Lancashire (for under 25 year olds):

Telephone: 01772 281570 or 0808 164 0074

spoc.yalancs@addaction.org.uk