

Saint Augustine's Catholic Primary School



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

Agreed by Governors and staff
Autumn 2022
Review Date
Autumn 2024

At St. Augustine's, we believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

The school defines the term 'drug' as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes caffeine, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other harmful substances, over the counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

Mission Statement

Our Catholic school is united in God's love, enabling everyone to grow in love for one another and to develop in faith. We strive for all children to achieve their best by becoming active and confident learners in a nurturing and caring environment. We guide everyone to shine in their own unique way.

'Unique and United in God's love. We let our light shine'

Aims and Objectives

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 uphold values that promote the health of and respect for members of the school community and visitors. (Our involvement in National Healthy School Programme supports and enriches this). 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. Additionally, we teach the children to be aware of correct use of prescription and non-prescription drugs that when taken correctly are beneficial for health.

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits, including residential. The school will also have an interest in the health and wellbeing of the pupil beyond these school boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- To educate the children on the misuse of all substances, legal and illegal;
- 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 to develop further a sense of self-worth and self-esteem;
- 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 that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff;
To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs
To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support for both themselves and their parents/carers
To enable parents to acquire knowledge and support

These Objectives are upheld by the whole school community. This includes all staff, teaching and non-teaching, governors, pupils, parents and any other person who would be acting as part of the school community whether voluntarily or employed by another agency or organisation.

DRUGS EDUCATION IN SCHOOL

Effective drug education should:

Be age appropriate, skills based and start in KS1;
Include the misuse of over the counter drugs as well as illegal substances;
Be delivered as part of the PSHE and science curriculums;
Give the facts to the pupils and not be judgemental;
Target the needs of the children and the community;
Engage the support of parents, carers and the community (including relevant organisations, such as the police, as necessary).

Organisation

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur.

In PSHE lessons we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs and the dangers of misusing legal drugs.

Drugs education forms an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) and science curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 2 using the PRIDE project and Year 6, where the children are taught about

drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the science guidelines provided by the QCA, and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority, Healthy Schools Programme or the LEA. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes it may be necessary that the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

Desired outcomes from Drugs Education

EYFS and Key Stage 1

By the end of Key Stage 1, it is hoped that children:

- Can recognise, name and deal with their feelings in a positive way;
- Can take part in a simple debate about topical issues;
- Understand how rules help them;
- Know how to make simple choices that improve their health and wellbeing;
- Know how some diseases are spread and controlled;
- Know that some household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly;
- Have rules for, and ways of, keeping safe and know about how people can help them to stay safe;
- Can recognise how their behaviour affects other people.
- Understand that medicines are a form of drug

Key Stage 2

By the end of Key Stage 2, it is hoped that children:

- Can talk about their opinions on issues that affect themselves and society;
- Understand how drugs affect the body (legal and illegal), why people take them and how harmful they can be if misused;
- Are equipped with the knowledge and confidence for them to make an informed decision about the dangers of misusing drugs;
- Know that there are people they can turn to if they need more information on, or are worried about, a drugs related issue;
- Know why and how rules and laws are made;
- Realise the consequences of anti-social behaviour
- Understand that medicines are a form of drug that can be prescribed or bought from the chemist or supermarket (self-medication) and that these medicines should be used in accordance to the leaflets contained inside

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for drugs issues including managing drug-related incidents, liaising with the Police and other external agencies, including support services. The DfE guidance of 2012 states that it is strongly advised to have a senior member of staff to have responsibility for this policy and for liaising with the local police and support services.

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

It is also the head teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The role of the PSHE Co-ordinator

The PSHE Lead is responsible for the development, monitoring and review of the drug education curriculum, supporting and training staff and liaising with any external agencies to support the curriculum. It is the role of the PSHE Co-ordinator to ensure that drugs education is seen as an important part of the curriculum, that it is being planned for and that the scheme of work is current, relevant and having a positive impact.

It is also important that they keep themselves up to date with their drugs education training and disseminate this to staff as necessary.

It is also their responsibility to keep the policy up to date and ensure that there are appropriate resources in school to support the teaching of drugs education.

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective we will:

Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;

Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;

Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;

Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;

Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;

Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school, including information on our school website.

All adults working at, or visiting school are made aware of the new legislation regarding the smoking ban on all LCC property, including the school grounds.

The role of the pupils

Pupils need to know and understand the school policy on drugs and be aware of the steps they need to take if they require support or suspect someone else is in need of help.

DEALING WITH INCIDENTS

Any incident concerning substances must be referred to the Headteacher. If the Headteacher is not available then the incident will be dealt with by the senior member of staff present, who will decide whether an immediate response is required.

If the teacher believes there are drugs on the school premises during school time then the following procedures are to be followed:

The head teacher must be informed. The head teacher will deal with the issue according to the individual child/children.

If a teacher needs to remove substances they must ensure another teacher is present.

Any substances found on the school premises may be, by law, disposed of by flushing down the lavatory. If a needle is found then it must be removed using tongs and disposed of in a box to protect other people.

The governing body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

If the head teacher is not available then the substances must still be removed and disposed of in the presence of another teacher and the parents contacted. The incident will be dealt with when the head teacher returns.

If any items were discovered on the school grounds, they should be removed and disposed of safely. The reiteration of safety messages should be carried out as part of the curriculum.

Any incidents will be recorded by the incident book which is kept in the head teacher's office. Serious incidents should be reported in person to the Headteacher, and discipline/school behaviour policy procedures may need to be followed, including pupil seclusion/exclusion.

Dealing with suspicion, rumour or disclosure about drugs

- Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumour or behaviour alone. If there is suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved.
- Sensitive information regarding suspicion or rumour about drugs and drug misuse should be passed onto the Head teacher or in his absence designated safeguarding leads who will decide how to deal with it through monitoring or passing the information on to other relevant agencies.
- If a pupil discloses their use of drugs or that of another person, staff will be non-judgemental and show care and concern for the pupil. The pupil will be reminded that the information they have given will have to be passed on through the school's pastoral system.
- The school will assess the pupil's welfare support and needs and if necessary involve external support for the pupil and where appropriate, the family.
- Finding drugs or drug paraphernalia on school premises
- There are regular checks of the school grounds by the Premises Manager who knows how to deal with drug taking materials or syringes.
- Pupils are taught not to touch any needles or syringes they may find and to inform a member of school staff immediately

If drugs or drug paraphernalia are found:

- a judgement should be made based on the type of substance found
- staff should ensure that tobacco, alcohol, solvents or over the counter / prescription drugs are moved to a safe place out of the reach of pupils.
- The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance that they suspect is an illegal drug, providing that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug(s) or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs, staff should:

- make sure that a second adult witness is present throughout
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and the name of the witness
- store it in a secure place, such as the school safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff
- report it to the Head Teacher who will contact the local police to report the finding of the drugs and organise their disposal.
- make a confidential record in the school incident book.

- Needles or syringes found on site should be dealt with very carefully usually by the Premises Manager.
- The area should be cleared and the paraphernalia guarded until the appropriate handling materials arrive
- There is a sharps box on site - tongs, tweezers or heavy-duty gloves should be used to pick up the needle.
- Wash hands thoroughly afterwards

Response to rumours or disclosure of information

The children must be made aware that any disclosures made during school time will be dealt with as with a child protection issue (see Child Protection Policy for relevant steps). The people who can help may have to be informed.

Confidentiality

While there is no legal duty to pass on confidential information to other agencies, where there is a possibility that a pupil is “at risk of significant harm”, there is a moral duty to pass on such information. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to children before they begin to disclose.

If a rumour is circulating or information has been disclosed the school will act as follows:

Inform the head teacher.

The issue will be dealt with taking into account the individual needs of the child/children.

The head teacher will record the incident.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The curriculum committee of the governing body on an annual basis will monitor the drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary. The curriculum committee takes into consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.