

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Drug Education Policy



Reviewed April 2023
To be reviewed April 2025



ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, WRIGHTINGTON
DRUGS POLICY

At St Joseph's we are committed to the health, safety and general wellbeing of all the members of the school community. Through our PSHEE curriculum and through our six Nurture Principles we aim to equip our pupils with the skills, knowledge, attitudes and strategies to enable them to make safe sensible life choices.

The School also observes the need for a clear, consistent and balanced approach to education and incident management and views drug education and a whole school/community issue. The Drugs Education programme takes account of the National Drugs Strategy and DfEE guidance. This policy also links to other school policies including PSHEE Education, Discipline and Medicines policies.

DEFINITION OF SUBSTANCES:

For the purpose of this policy a 'drug' is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes both legal and illegal substances, volatile substances (solvents), alcohol, tobacco and prescribed drugs and those classed as over the counter drugs. At St Joseph's we recognise that any drug can be potentially dangerous and can be misused.



CURRICULUM ISSUES:

Drugs education is an entitlement for every pupil and will be delivered through well planned PSHEE and science lessons.

As a school we try to deliver a comprehensive drug education programme which responds to the needs, ages and experiences of the children at St Joseph's and which encompasses appropriate continuity and progression.

We therefore aim to: -

- Create a positive climate in which teaching and learning take place where pupils feel comfortable and safe to discuss their perceptions of drug use;
- Help raise and maintain pupil self-esteem to develop knowledge and understanding of drugs and medicines and how they are used/misused;
- Provide a variety of learning experiences encouraging the development of personal skills and the exploration of values and attitudes;
- Develop decision making and risk assessment skills;
- Enable pupils to recognise positive and negative influences;
- Encourage pupils to live healthy lifestyles;
- Use 'active' teaching and learning methods which are predominantly pupil centred;
- Link drugs to other areas like emotional health and well being



CONTENT:

Provision of drug education will take place throughout school from the Foundation stage to Year 6. This will be based on the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum for Science.

RESOURCES:

The resources used to help deliver drug education will:-

- Reflect the schools values and belief about drugs, alcohol and tobacco including e-cigarettes;

- Are flexible enough to meet the needs of different pupils including those with special needs;
- Offer active learning and a stimulus for good discussion;
- Be culturally inclusive and free from stereotypes;
- Give accurate and balanced facts and do not aim to shock or horrify;

VISITORS AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES:

At St Joseph's we acknowledge that visitors and agency professionals can be of value, but only if they are integrated into a teacher led programme. Class teachers should view any teaching materials and resources prior to any session being conducted by an outside agency and must remain in the classroom throughout.

Visitors should also be aware of this policy and issues about confidentiality prior to any sessions with pupils.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE CLASSROOM:

Where possible during drug education in the classroom and in the event of drug related incidents, appropriate confidentiality should be observed in conjunction with the child protection policy, without jeopardising the safety of children or staff. When introducing drug education topics ground rules should be clearly established and the issue of confidentiality may be raised. It is important that staff know that they cannot promise total confidentiality due to their legal responsibilities and child protection issues.

“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’)

For this reason, the following issues should be considered:

- Pupils should be aware of the boundaries of confidence before disclosures are made;
- Staff should never offer absolute confidentiality as they are obliged to share information relating to abuse in line with child protection procedures;
- There is no legal requirement for staff to disclose information relating to pupil drug use although parents will normally be contacted, and other agencies may be involved where appropriate;
- When considering the involvement of other agencies, the implications for all parties should be carefully considered;
- In law children of 16 years of age have rights to confidentiality as do those under 16 who are of a ‘mature nature’;

- All situations should be accurately recorded, including the school responses and monitoring of pupil progress;
- Records should be stored in a secure place (a photocopyable record sheet is provided in 'The Right Responses').

All staff should be aware of the school's confidentiality policy and this policy should be shared with visitors and outside agencies.

SUBSTANCE RELATED INCIDENTS:

If any drug-related situation should arise in school, it will be co-ordinated by the Head Teacher following procedures set out below.

1. Assess medical needs and call emergency services if necessary;
2. Any substances will be confiscated and disposed of as appropriate...this will normally mean handing them to the police;
3. The Head Teacher must be informed, and the incident documented according to agreed procedures;
4. Parents/carers will be informed;
5. Substance-related incidents will be taken very seriously;
6. Any incident will be considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances;
7. The school will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the wellbeing of the school community;
8. A range of responses/sanctions may be used including the involvement of outside agencies;
9. Liaise with Chair of Governors;
10. Meet with parents as soon as possible following any incident.

When responding to incidents care should be taken to avoid over reacting to drug use and under-reacting to drug misuse. The 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.

Drug and alcohol-related incidents:

It is the policy of this school that no child should bring any drug, legal or illegal, to school. If a child will need medication during the school day, the parent or carer should notify the school and ask permission for the medication to be brought. This should be taken directly to the headteacher for safekeeping. Any medication needed by a child while in school must be taken under the supervision of the headteacher in line with the '**Medicines Policy.**'

The school will take very seriously misuse of any substance.

SCREENING, SEARCHING AND CONFISCATION:

Power to search pupils without consent:

In addition to the general power to use reasonable force described above, headteachers and authorised staff can use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances to conduct a search for the following “prohibited items”:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or
- to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil).

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees. Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Headteachers and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

Force cannot be used to search for items banned under the school rules.

Searching with consent:

Schools’ common law powers to search: School staff can search pupils with their consent for any item.

Also note:

- Schools are not required to have formal written consent from the pupil for this sort of search – it is enough for the teacher to ask the pupil to turn out his or her pockets or if the teacher can look in the pupil’s bag or locker and for the pupil to agree.

- If a member of staff suspects a pupil has a banned item in his/her possession, they can instruct the pupil to turn out his or her pockets or bag and if the pupil refuses, the teacher can apply an appropriate punishment as set out in the school's behaviour policy.
- A pupil refusing to co-operate with such a search raises the same kind of issues as where a pupil refuses to stay in a detention or refuses to stop any other unacceptable behaviour when instructed by a member of staff – in such circumstances, schools can apply an appropriate disciplinary penalty.

Confiscation:

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Screening:

What the law allows:

- Schools can require pupils to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the pupils.
- Schools' statutory power to make rules on pupil behaviour and their duty as an employer to manage the safety of staff, pupils and visitors enables them to impose a requirement that pupils undergo screening.
- Any member of school staff can screen pupils.

Also note:

- If a pupil refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to have the pupil on the premises. Health and safety legislation require a school to be managed in a way which does not expose pupils or staff to risks to their health and safety and this would include making reasonable rules as a condition of admittance.
- If a pupil fails to comply, and the school does not let the pupil in, the school has not excluded the pupil and the pupil's absence should be treated as unauthorised. The pupil should comply with the rules and attend.
- This type of screening, without physical contact, is not subject to the same conditions as apply to the powers to search without consent.

(Taken from The School Behaviour Policy).

HEALTH & SAFETY:

The 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, ('Health & Safety Policy');
- Provision of 'First Aiders' and equipment ('Health & Safety Policy').

HEAD TEACHER & GOVERNING BODY:

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, LA, parents and agencies.

As with other matters concerning the direction of the school, the Governors have been involved in approving this policy and dealing with responses to this issue.

SUPPORT FROM PARENTS AND STAFF:

Children of drug using parents are identified as an at-risk group. However, drug use by parents does not in itself indicate child neglect or abuse. Where schools become aware of family drug use, it is advisable to contact an appropriate agency for advice prior to any action. Issues of confidentiality should be carefully considered.

School personnel are not immune from substance related problems. School management will, where possible, provide relevant information and access to support for all members of the school community.

PARENTS:

The school considers support of parents essential and will endeavour to ensure parents are informed of developments in our programme. Procedures for the administration of prescribed medication are clearly set out in the school brochure given to all families.

KEY DOCUMENTS:

Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES, 2004)

The following have been distributed to all schools in Lancashire through the LEA:

The Right Choice: Guidance on Selecting Drug Education Materials for Schools

The Right Approach: Quality Standards in Drug Education

The Right Responses: Managing and Making Policy for Drug-related Incidents in Schools

(Further copies of all the above can be obtained free from DfEE publications - 0845 602 2260)

USEFUL CONTACTS:

LEA teacher Advisers for Drug Education, Unit 2, Chorley West Business Park, Ackhurst Road, Chorley, PR7 1NL

Telephone: 01257 226900

Fax: 01257 226814

Lancashire Drug Action Team, Ribbleton Medical Centre, 243 Ribbleton Ave, Ribbleton, Preston, PR2 6RD

Telephone: 01772 705141

Lifeline East Lancs, 68/70 Darwen Street, Blackburn BB2 2BL

Telephone: 01254 677493

Fax: 01254 677503

Drugline, 2 Union Court, Union Street, Preston, PR1 2HD

Telephone: 01772 253840

Fax: 01772 887927

NW Young Person's Substance Misuse Service

Telephone: 01772 881405

South Ribble Drug Support Project

Telephone: 01772 457107

LANCASHIRE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICE DISTRICT OFFICES

Lancaster 01524 35099

Wyre 01253 893102

Ribble Valley 01200 443466

Fylde 01772 682548

Preston 01772 261805

South Ribble 01772 621125

West Lancs 01695 573971

Chorley 01257 268251

Hyndburn 01254 876295

Burnley 01282 831040

Rossendale 01706 225180

Pendle 01282 826850

Youth and Community Service Drug Co-ordinator 01253 893102

Young Persons' Freephone Helpline 0800 511111

HEALTH PROMOTION UNITS

Morecambe Bay Health Authority, Health Promotion Centre, Community Services, Slyne Road, Lancaster, LA1 2HT

Telephone: 01524 32392

South Lancashire Health Authority, Chorley & South Ribble District Hospital, Preston Road, Chorley PR7 1PP

Telephone: 01257 245361

North West Lancashire Health Authority, Units 44B and C, Progress Industrial Estate, Orders Lane, Kirkham, PR4 2TZ

Telephone: 01772 686031

East Lancashire Health Authority, Health promotion Unit, Accrington Victoria Hospital, Whalley Road, Accrington, BB% 8AS

Telephone: 01254 263555

Health Promotion England (for ordering free campaign materials)

Telephone 01304624731