

St Saviour's C of E Academy
Drugs Education Policy
September 2020

Please see the school's PSHE Policy in line with this policy.

What is Drug education?

For the purpose of this policy and our drugs education programme, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave.* Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.

Drugs Education is part of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Attitudes and values

- Exploring, considering and understanding attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making
- Learning to respect & value difference & diversity
- Having structured opportunities for the exploration of personal attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use & drug users
- Exploring attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users

Personal and social skills

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Learning to manage change
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- Learning to make informed choices
- Exploring the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions & choices in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse
- Developing inter-personal skills
- Having opportunities to develop a self esteem
- Learning about themselves
- Learning about playing a positive and active role as citizens

Knowledge and understanding

- Learning about a safe & healthy lifestyle based on accurate information.
- Learning accurate information about drugs, drug use & drug users

- Having myths & misunderstandings about drugs, drug use & drug users dispelled
- Learning about seeking appropriate help & advice
- Learning about their community and the society of which they are a part in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users
- Developing pupils' understanding of rules and laws

Aims and Objectives of the Drug Policy

- Promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviours towards good health
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- To foster and develop self esteem
- To explore and understand accurate information
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about health and social issues
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support

Why do we need a drug education policy?

We are committed to investing in our pupil's health and well-being, because we believe doing so will assist children in becoming well rounded individuals. Drugs education is an important issue that is both essential and relevant to children in the real world. Through our approaches to drugs education we are seeking to develop and enhance life skills that can be built on and which will support children in making future decisions.

How is drug education provided?

Drugs education at St Saviours Academy is taught within weekly PSHE lessons. PSHE lessons are taught throughout the school and every child will have the opportunity to learn about drug education in an age appropriate way, whether that be on the scale of medicinal counter medication to illegal drugs. We follow the PSHE Association guidance and use their objectives to develop our planning, *please see the PSHE policy for more information.*

Answering and Asking Questions

In most cases teachers will attempt to answer children's questions and concerns in a sensitive, age and development appropriate manner. Individual teachers will use their skill and discretion in these situations and if necessary, refer to the PSHE Co-ordinator for advice and support. Teachers will also follow the following guidance:

- Teachers will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting. If a child's question is inappropriate to address with the whole class the teacher should acknowledge the question and attend to it later on an individual basis

- Teachers will set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that pupils discuss issues in a way encourages positive participation
- Pupils may have opportunities to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box. The teacher will have time to prepare answers to questions before the next session, and can choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate to address in whole class lessons
- Parents will be informed if a question or comment is of concern.

Monitoring and Review

The PSHE co-ordinator is responsible for monitoring the quality of teaching and the standards of work. They support colleagues and share current developments, initiatives, PSHE based topic days and challenges any colleagues providing the PSHE curriculum may face. The PSHE co-ordinator checks coverage of PSHE areas of learning by studying the examples of teaching and evidence collected.

Assessment and record keeping

Children will be assessed through informal questioning and evidence produced related to each topic. Children will be assessed at the beginning of a topic, so teachers understand what the children already know. They will then assess the children again at the end of the topic with reference to children's knowledge, understanding and skills. Children are given verbal feedback where appropriate to help guide their progress and are encouraged to make their own judgements.

Each teacher will be responsible for recording children's work in a whole-class PSHE book. Alongside this, teachers will be responsible for assessing all children at the end of each topic using a RAG assessment sheet.

Although our PSHE lessons are inclusive, if a child needs further support in a specific topic, teachers will speak to the PSHE coordinator and a plan of action for intervention will be put in place.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Please see St Saviour's C of E Academy PSHE policy for information on PSHE in Early Years.

Equal Opportunities

The school's drugs education program of study is designed to promote the achievement of our aims and to ensure that the children have equal access to them, inclusive of every child. This is covered in our PSHE lessons, following the PSHE Association guidance.

To achieve this, the school's approach to Drugs Education will take account and be differentiated if appropriate of:

- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Varying home backgrounds
- Special educational needs

Although our PSHE lessons are inclusive, if a child needs further support in a specific topic or are deemed as sensitive to the topic, teachers will speak to the PSHE coordinator and a plan of action for intervention will be put in place. Parents will be informed at every step.

Confidentiality

Teachers and staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection or safeguarding
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

B Stephenson
Due for renewal Summer 2023