

ST VINCENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Policy Date: September 2024
Review Date: September 2026

Mission Statement

Caritas Christi Urget Nos

The love of Christ urges us to care for each other and strive for excellence in everything we do.

Drug Education Policy

Introduction

The writing of this policy has involved consultation between the Head teacher, the teaching and non-teaching staff, governors on the School Improvement Committee, parents, pupils and the school nurse.

Research carried out at the end of 2018 from The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) showed that young people are being offered or trying/experimenting with drugs at an earlier age such as 12. The NHS Digital Survey of school age children 'Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England in 2016' showed nearly a fifth of pupils said they had taken drugs in that year. Department for Education data for 2016-2017 showed that school exclusions for alcohol and drug use have increased substantially in recent years.

The school hopes that by providing the children with guidance, skills and information we will have made a significant impact on their attitude and avoidance of drugs.

We endeavour to have a consistent approach among the staff in drug related matters. We wish to have a clear statement available to parents, OFSTED, members of staff and others. All members of the school community agree that the misuse of drugs on school property is inappropriate. This relates to all activities on school premises and includes tobacco and alcohol.

Definition

At St Vincent's the term 'drug' is defined as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes:

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Solvents/volatile substances e.g. petrol, glue, aerosols
- Over-the-counter medicines e.g. aspirin, paracetamol
- Prescribed medicines e.g. tranquillisers
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin

Aims of this Policy

- To provide a clear statement of the school's view on drug education
- To ensure a consistent approach from staff to drug education and in handling of drug –related incidents.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse
- To build up self-esteem
- To help pupils acquire decision-making skills
- To create a climate where young people feel comfortable discussing issues relating to drugs.
- To foster skills that empower children to take responsibility for their own health.

Drugs education will be taught mainly within PSHE lessons and the skills taught and the approach taken are mainly the same in that both promote a healthy lifestyle. Drug education opportunities include:

- Planned cross-curricular e.g. through science, RE and SEAL work.
- Planned visits from outsiders e.g., school nurse, police
- Assemblies
- Through the use of story, circle time etc.

Roles & Responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community.

The role of Staff

All staff should consider themselves as role models whose behaviour the children are likely to notice and often follow. Staff also have responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incident.

Teaching staff have a responsibility to contribute to the taught curriculum for drug education. They listen to the pupils and respond to their needs. These needs are met in specific drug education input as well as through a wider programme of personal and social skills development.

Response to possible drug related incidents

The school will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by Children, Schools and Families (CSF) and national guidance.

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

The misuse of any drug is regarded as a drug related incident. Children, parents or staff should immediately inform the Head Teacher if:

- Any evidence of drug/substance misuse is found on school property
- A child is thought to possess such evidence
- They hear reports of a child being offered such evidence
- A child's behaviour/personality changes as a result of possible drug ingestion

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for managing the incident and liaison with other organizations e.g. police and social services

The role of Governors

There is a named governor responsible for overseeing the PSHE curriculum which includes drug education.

They should be aware of training needs for staff relating to drug related incidents and their disciplinary response.

The role of Parents

The school is aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive supportive 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
- Answer any questions parents may have about 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

Smoking

The school has a no-smoking policy which is strictly enforced, including on occasions when children are not present, e.g. PTA functions.

Alcohol

Occasionally alcohol is allowed on the school premises e.g. PTA function. On these occasions, alcohol is locked away until it is used. Communion wine for use during school Masses is kept locked in the RE cupboard or in the school office.

Medicines in school

The school follows the "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" DFES 2015 and guidelines in "Drugs: Advice for Schools" DFES 2012.

Monitoring and review

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

References

NHS Digital (2017) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England*. Available at:

www.digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/smoking-drinking-and-drug-use-among-young-people-in-england/2016 (Accessed: November 2020)

Home Office (2018) *Crime Survey for England and Wales: 2 Drug misuse: findings from the 2017 to 2018 Crime Survey for England and Wales*. Available at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/drug-misuse-findings-from-the-2017-to-2018-csew (Accessed: November 2020)

Department for Education (2018) *3 Permanent and fixed period exclusions in England: 2016 to 2017*. Available at:

www.gov.uk/government/statistics/permanent-and-fixed-period-exclusions-in-england-2016-to-2017 (Accessed: November 2020)

Equal opportunities statement

In making decisions about drug education, all staff will take into account any special educational needs, disabilities, gender, and cultural differences that may be relevant to the case and ensure that the physical environment of the school enables all students to have equal access to continuity of education.

Monitoring and Evaluation of this policy

The Curriculum Committee will, in consultation with the Head teacher/Deputy Head teacher monitor and evaluate the implementation of this policy. It will be reviewed at least every 2 years to ensure it reflects current practice.

Member of staff with Lead Responsibility for this policy:	Matthew Gibson
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