



'Loving to Learn, Learning to Love'



Drug and Substance Misuse Policy

Last Reviewed: March 2024

Review Date: December 2025

DRUG EDUCATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Introduction

The misuse of drugs, both legal and illegal, by young people can have a serious impact on their educational attainment, relationships with family and friends and their health and well-being, preventing them from reaching their full potential.

Our aim is to educate our children about drugs at an age appropriate level in a safe and supportive environment which enables young people to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues.

It is a government requirement that all schools have an up to date drug education policy that is accessible to all and is reviewed on a regular basis.

Drug education is delivered as part of the PSHE and Science curricula.

Definition

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.

Aims

The aim of drug education provides the opportunity for pupils to explore and develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues to enable them to make informed decisions. Drug education:

- Increases pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarifies misconceptions about:
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs;
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs;
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
 - the complex moral, social and economic issues surrounding drugs.
- Develops pupils' personal and social skills in order to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing self-awareness and self esteem
- Enables pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influence.

Drug Education

Drug education is delivered through the PSHE and Science curricula because it focuses on providing pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes. Delivery of drugs education in the foundation stage is within PSED and Understanding of the World.

Drug Education needs to be delivered in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Therefore it is essential that clear ground rules are negotiated with pupils regarding confidentiality, rights to privacy, respect and boundaries. Pupils should be actively encouraged to participate in their own learning and to question and think critically.

Teaching and learning style

We use a range of teaching and learning styles. We place an emphasis on active learning by including the children in discussions, investigations and problem solving activities. We ensure that every pupil succeeds through the provision of an inclusive education within a culture of high expectations.

- the purpose of each lesson is made clear
- time is given for pupils to reflect, consolidate and apply their learning
- pupils are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and to record their own progress
- we build on what learners already know
- we make learning vivid and real – developing understanding through enquiry and group problem solving
- we make learning an enjoyable and challenging experience, we stimulate learning by matching teaching techniques and strategies to a range of learning styles
- we enrich the learning experience by infusing learning skills across the curriculum
- we promote assessment for learning and make pupils partners in their own learning.

A wide range of active learning approaches are used to ensure that all young people actively participate.

- . circle time
- . assemblies
- . role play
- . cross curricular links
- . PSHE lessons
- . visits and visitors
- . support from the school nurse

Resources used are relevant, up to date and appropriate in order to meet the needs of the children in our care.

Staff Development and Support

All staff have a general drug awareness and a good understanding of the school's policy for drug education and the management of drug related incidents.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

The progress/attainment in Drug Education forms part of the overall progress/attainment in the science and PSHE curricula and forms part of the relevant science unit/report.

Monitoring and evaluating enables the school to identify the relevance and effectiveness of the drug education programme through the teaching activities and resources used and whether they meet the needs and interests of the pupils.

Medication

The primary concern for the school is the care and welfare of its pupils.

There are a number of pupils in school who may require medication to be administered during the school day. The parents/carers of pupils with medical conditions requiring medication fill out a consent proforma. The medication is kept in the office fridge or, in the case of asthma inhalers, Epi-pens and insulin, in a secure but accessible place in the child's classroom. The medication is administered as described on the prescription. Alternatively, a responsible adult may visit the school, in the lunch break to bring and administer medication themselves, by prior arrangement. Records are kept of all medication received and given. Please refer to the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

The name of the staff member responsible for co-ordinating the school's response to drug incidents is the Headteacher, Mrs D Sadler.

Solvent and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils. Teachers should be cautious with solvent-based products such as, aerosols, glues and board-cleaning fluids. For example, aerosols must be used in well ventilated areas.

Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Headteacher. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school or on school premises.

A drug incident is defined as any incident which involves suspicion, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorized drugs. These may be:

- drugs or associated paraphernalia found on the school premises.
- a pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of understanding of drugs for their age.
- a pupil/ parent/carer or staff member is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- a pupil/ parent/carer or staff member is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises.
- a pupil, parent/ carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs.

- the school is given information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area.
- a pupil/ parent/carer or staff member discloses that they are using drugs.

In every case of an incident involving drugs the school places utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid. If the school is in any doubt medical assistance will be sought immediately.

The school will record any incident, with records being kept securely.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purpose of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all responsible steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and secured securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances. Illegal substances will be handed to the police.

If pupils/staff are thought to be holding illegal substances it is the school's policy to try to get them to volunteer the substances without the need of a personal search. Two people will be present if concern is raised with regard to holding illegal substances. Parents/carers will be informed.

The school will conduct a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of any incident. The emphasis is on listening to what people have to say and asking open-ended questions. Where appropriate, any pupils involved in an incident are separated and a second adult witness is present. Issues such as confidentiality, child protection, police intervention and referral to external agencies are given careful attention to safeguard the needs of those involved and to ensure an appropriate response is taken.

Any response should balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider school community, and aim to provide pupils with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

Drug/alcohol related problems are rarely, if ever, isolated and are usually indicative of wider issues in a person's life. A holistic approach is essential when assessing drug/alcohol use and other factors that are impacting on a person's life and behaviour.

The Headteacher will decide:

- when an incident can be managed internally by the school.
- when the police should be informed or consulted ie has an offence been committed, if yes - then the police should always be involved.

An incident involving unauthorised drugs at St Mark's is most likely to involve tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, coats etc.

A full record will be made of any incident.

Responsibilities

The policy will be reviewed annually by the Safeguarding and PSHE leads and any changes disseminated to the staff, members of the Local Governing Board, pupils, parents and carers.

The role of parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and 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's drug education policy
- answer any questions parents may have about the drug education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issues raised concerning the drug policy
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Links to other Policies

The Drug and Substance Misuse Policy should be read in conjunction with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, the PHSE Policy, the Health and Safety Policy, the Science Policy, the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy and the Growing Up and Getting On (RSE) Policy.

Signed

Headteacher

Signed

Co-Chair of Local Governing Board

Date: March 2024