



DRUGS POLICY

Drugs Policy for St Mary's C.E. School

First agreed by Governing Body:	May 1999
Last revised and updated:	January 2015
Person responsible:	Ben Egan

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1. Introduction

This policy outlines the purpose and management of drug education taught at St Mary's CE School. It should be read with regard to the Drug Education Programme which sets out what pupils should be taught in each Key Stage.

The term 'drug' is defined as "a substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way the person behaves, feels, sees or thinks".

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- 'over the counter' medicines
- prescribed drugs
- volatile substances (glue, corrective fluids, gas lighter fuel, aerosols and petrol)
- illegal drugs.

2. Aims

The school aims to deliver a well-planned, coherent and co-ordinated drug education programme to all pupils in line with Department for Education statutory and non-statutory guidelines.

Our school aims to:

- develop and raise self-esteem
- enable informed choices to be made
- develop appropriate personal and social skills
- support emotional development
- explore and promote strategies for healthy lifestyles
- provide a safe and secure environment
- offer support, help and advice on drug-related issues whenever possible
- provide appropriate drug education.

3. Key Elements

- Knowledge
- Skills
- Attitudes

Topics covered include:-

- a) Knowledge and understanding of
 - schools rules relating to medicines
 - information about health and looking after our bodies
 - the role of medicines in promoting health
 - understanding how some drugs can become addictive

b) Skills

- following simple safety rules
- communicating feelings about illness and taking medicines
- dealing with peer pressure

c) Attitudes

- developing self esteem
- using knowledge and understanding to make informed choices
- identifying and discussing risk and safety to understand that all behaviour is a choice

4. The Law and Legal Issues

Refer to the local authority Guidelines on the Management of Drug Related Incidents.

5. Managing Drug-related Issues

General Points

All staff must be alert to the warning signs which may indicate that a pupil is misusing drugs.

Drug-related issues will always be referred to the Headteacher.

The school will seek to work in partnership with parents, outside agencies and appropriate authorities. This may involve seeking appropriate counselling.

The expectation of the school is that no pupil or adult will come onto the school site under the influence of or in possession of drugs (except for medicines prescribed for life threatening illnesses). The procedures below will be followed in instances where this is not the case. In most of these cases the school's designated first aider may need to be involved and the Headteacher should always be informed.

Other than medicines taken for life threatening illnesses (eg inhalers, epipens, insulin), no medicines can be administered by staff at school. Parents will need to come to school to administer any regular medicines such as antibiotics. Staff who bring medicines to school must ensure they are kept on their person or out of reach of children, preferably in a locked area.

Further Issues

The school will consult with the police if any suspicious substance, materials or drug taking paraphernalia is found on the school premises. A log number will be collected and the incident recorded by the Headteacher.

In instances when the school becomes positively aware of a pupil being involved in illegal or dangerous activities involving drugs during out of school hours, the school will inform the parents and the police if appropriate. This action will be undertaken in a sensitive and supportive manner.

If there is any doubt concerning the safety of a pupil in the home when a drug-related incident has been reported to parents, then Social Services will be alerted.

6. Curriculum Delivery

In instances where a child may bring an unknown substance to school which is thought to be drug-related, the school will confiscate the substance. An explanation will be sought and the procedures outlined earlier will be followed. If a satisfactory explanation is not forthcoming from the child, the parents will be contacted and other agencies will be involved if necessary.

Drug education will be delivered by class teachers using both cross-curricular and discrete programmes within the personal, social and health education provided by the school. This will be supported by the use of recognised outside agencies and other approved speakers abiding by this policy.

The programmes will be reviewed by the teachers involved in teaching. The overall provision will be monitored by the Headteacher, in partnership with the PSHCE co-ordinator.

Opportunities for drug and alcohol education exist within:

- the PSHCE curriculum
- the Science and English curriculum
- Circle Time and teaching style
- School assemblies
- Special events eg. Health week, visiting speakers
- Student Council

The school's drug education curriculum will both support and enhance the expectations found in the National Curriculum orders for science and the frameworks for PSHCE.

7. Community

Whenever necessary, appropriate and possible, the school will seek to work in partnership with the local community, parents, outside agencies and relevant authorities in areas considered within this policy.

Parents will be informed regarding significant issues through newsletters and other communications including parents' meetings with invited guest speakers, if necessary.

In the event of a drug-related incident and media involvement, the school will contact the local authority media liaison officer and any other relevant person for advice before commenting.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has an overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy in consultation with the PSHCE co-ordinator.

9. Review

This policy will be reconsidered every three years unless circumstances demand an earlier review.

10. Evaluation

The Headteacher and PSHCE co-ordinator will continually monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy by reference to the ongoing achievement of its stated aims and procedures.

11. Equalities Statement

St Mary's CE School is committed to valuing diversity and to equality of opportunity. We aim to create and promote an environment in which pupils, parents and staff are treated fairly and with respect, and feel able to contribute to the best of their abilities.

The Governing Body recognises that it is unlawful to take into account anyone's gender, marital status, colour, race, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religious beliefs, age or sexual orientation. Full consideration has been given to this during the formulation of this policy as it is the governors' aim that no-one at St Mary's school should suffer discrimination, either directly or indirectly, or harassment on any of these grounds.