



School Stance

- To help pupils live a healthy life style now and in the future.
- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To provide a framework for staff to inform teaching and responses to drug related incidents on school premises.
- To encourage a partnership approach between home and school in drug awareness education.
- To ensure a whole school approach to health and well-being which involves all members of staff, children, parents and carers and governors.

The Policy Applies: -

To all staff, teaching and non-teaching, pupils, parents/carers, governors and visitors during school time, on the school premises and during school trips.

Definitions and Terminology

For the purpose of the policy the term drugs includes legal drugs such as over the counter and prescribed medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and other substances and illegal drugs.

The School's Stance Towards

Possession of illegal drugs and usage of all drugs in school during the school day, including school trips, is totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated (with exception of necessary medicinal drugs).

The rule applies to all members of the school community.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher decides on responses to all drugs issues.

Leader

- Informs Headteacher of all drug issues.
- Develops curriculum.
- Ensures the delivery of drugs education within the PSHE and Citizenship curriculum and the provision of appropriate resources.
- Supports staff in drug education.
- Co-ordinates policy review.

Drugs Education

The aim of drugs education is to provide opportunities for pupils to:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about drugs.
- Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy.
- To enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users.

Content of Drugs Education

The schools will base its education on the DATE pack which was developed by a team of teachers in Islington, the schools coordinator. This pack has clear learning objectives and outcomes and refers to the curriculum framework of PSHE and Citizenship and the National Curriculum Science order.

Teaching

At the time of writing the curriculum is organised as follows:

- The Leader is trialling and developing materials
- The Leader has carried out some action research (draw/write) to ascertain the children's starting points and needs and which will be developed throughout the school.

Equal Opportunities

The school's equal opportunities policy applies to drugs education. Where appropriate teaching materials will reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of British society. We try to avoid stereotyping in terms of gender and race. Also pupils' progress is monitored to ensure no pupil is disadvantaged. Parents are always welcome to discuss these issues with staff.

Methodology and Resources

All lessons involve pupils in participating activities. We use the DATE pack developed by Islington LEA and drugs, alcohol and tobacco education curriculum guidance.

Breadth and Balance

A variety of teaching strategies, use of external visitors, coupled with a wide range of pupil centred tasks ensure breadth and balance.

Use of Visitors

It is important to work closely with external agencies. Good drugs education involves partnership, often using the services of the school's attached youth crime reduction officer, (police officer) and other external agencies such as the school nursing service.

Where visitors are used to support and extend classroom teaching, they should be used to complement the school's work for drugs education. In particular, a teacher should always be present and retain overall responsibility in the classroom.

Staff Training

We recognise that many staff are daunted by the prospect of teaching drugs education. A good teacher of drugs education does not need to be an authority on drugs. It is the life skills aspects that are so crucial to this area of the curriculum. Most pupils want to be able to discuss drugs with a caring adult with which we offer through the development of life skills.

The coordinator works closely with the LEA and takes advantage of the support, advice and training from LEA and local support services.

Management of Drugs / Administration of Medicine

Children are not allowed to keep prescribed or over the counter medicine. Asthma inhalers are kept inside the classroom and easily accessed by the child to use when necessary.

Parents will inform the school of arrangements of use. For individual cases, parents inform the school and appropriate arrangement will be made.

Smoking

Smoking will not be permitted on the school premises. Adults, including teaching and support staff and parents supporting the pupils on activities out of school, will not smoke while in care of the children.

Any pupils found smoking in school during the school day will be reminded that they are breaking school rules. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken and parents informed. Any smoking equipment such as cigarettes, matches, lighters, cigarette papers will be confiscated.

Finding Drug Paraphernalia on School Premises

When receiving or retrieving substances or equipment associated with drugs from a pupil or a place, do so in presence of a witness if at all possible. Do not touch or taste substances and alert the premises manager where needles/syringes are found. Children will be taught not to touch needles/syringes if found.

In the absence of a witness, do not delay in obtaining the substance and informing the Headteacher. The Headteacher will decide whether to destroy the substance or inform the police.

Searches

If a member of staff has reasonable cause to believe that a pupil is concealing drugs on their person or bag, searches should never be made by a teacher. The teacher may ask a pupil to voluntarily turn out his/her pockets or bag, and if the pupil refuses to comply he/she can be detained under close supervision while parents and/or police are called in to deal with the situation. The same applies to any adult.

Parents or Carers Under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol

If a parent/carer comes to collect a child and is noticed to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs and therefore unsafe to care for the child then provision will be made for another parent or member of staff to accompany the child home. The Headteacher will decide on appropriate measures to be taken.

In all incidents the Headteacher will decide the appropriate response which may be a mixture of pastoral, disciplinary or further drug education.

The health and safety of each child is paramount.

Dealing with Someone Under the Influence of Alcohol or Drugs

The health and safety of the person comes first and medical procedures should be immediately activated. The person should never be left alone.

Police Involvement

The school has a police liaison officer and the Headteacher will decide when and how to involve them.

Confidentiality

The staff of St John Evangelist Catholic Primary School cannot guarantee confidentiality, and where a pupil discloses information that indicates that the pupil is at risk, the information needs to be immediately passed on to the appropriate person (Headteacher, Designated Child Protection Lead). The teacher should sensitively indicate to the pupil that confidentiality cannot be maintained.

Involvement of Parent/Carers

Many parents/carers have great concerns about drugs and as the 'first educators' of their children, most want to develop and extend their child's awareness of the world, developing towards being a responsible citizen. Parents/carers like schools, need to assess when the time is right for their child to handle new ideas, concepts and knowledge.

In the management of any drugs incident, parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation unless child protection issues are involved.

The Role of Governors

The governors will be informed on drugs issues as they affect the school
Drugs education is an important element of the curriculum.