



St. Philomena's Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Miss V Maher

**Drugs, Alcohol
and
Tobacco Education Policy**

February 2024

This policy should be read in conjunction with :-

- E- Safety Policy**
- Behaviour & Discipline Policy**
- Home School Agreement**
- Complaints Policy**
- PHSE**
- Equality Policy**
- Science**
- First Aid Policy**
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions**

Date of Policy	Signed	Position
February 2024		Headteacher
Monitoring	By	Date
Reviewed		
To be ratified		
Uploaded to website	By	Date
This policy will be reviewed every other year by the full Governing Body		
Date of next review : February 2026		

St. Philomena's CP School

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

A definition of Drugs

For the purpose of this policy, 'drugs' include legal drugs, (alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, solvents etc) prescribed and non-prescribed medicines and illegal drugs. While all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines.

Rationale

At St Philomena's CP School we are committed to providing the best possible education for all children and to developing each child's full potential. Included in this is the provision for Drugs Education – pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities across and beyond the curriculum so that they can make a positive contribution to the life of the school and to their communities.

The school believes that the possession and or use of drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, nor by pupils who are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug education has implications for the whole school community. It is most effective when supported by consistent messages from the community, families and school policy and practice. Pupils are likely to gain more from drug education when there is consistency between what is taught in the curriculum and the school's values and ethos which have been developed and embraced by all members of the school community.

The school operates a 'smoke free' policy. No smoking is permitted anywhere in the school or on the school grounds.

Aims

Drug education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Through our teaching we aim to enable our pupils to:

- Clarify their own knowledge on medicines and drugs
- Acquire attitudes, skills and values about medicine and drug use that promote personal well-being
- Develop a responsible lifestyle around medicines and drugs in the longer term

Objectives

The school is committed to providing an accurate drug education curriculum that meets the statutory requirements as set out in the National Curriculum Science Order 2014 (Updated May 2015) and to fulfil the requirements of the 2002 Education Act which states:

Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

We offer a wide ranging scheme of work that empowers our pupils to make healthy, informed choices about drugs and alcohol throughout their lives.

The curriculum will reflect a balance between:

- personal and social skills
- knowledge and understanding
- attitudes and values

Curriculum organisation

Drugs education is delivered as part of the science curriculum and during special themed days and weeks.

Drugs education is taught through other curriculum subjects including:

- English – group discussion and interaction, information texts, literature, media
- Mathematics – handling data including interpreting and discussing results
- Computing – finding things out through research
- Physical education – fitness and health
- Religious education – exploring morals, values and cultural diversity

Teaching and Learning

In developing the children's knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding in Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education we emphasise the following:

- To establish and work from what pupils already know using pupil questionnaires
- To establish a group agreement and create an environment suitable for discussion and reflection
- Use an active learning approach incorporating a wide range of activities including circle time, school council, assemblies, debates and discussions, group work, drama and role-play, and visits from external agencies

Assessment and reporting arrangements

Teachers keep records in accordance with the school policy on record keeping, assessment and recording.

Assessment of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is included within the assessment of PSHE.

A PSHE comment is included in the annual report of each pupil.

DEALING WITH DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

This section provides a framework for dealing with incidents surrounding the use, suspicion of use and finding of drugs and substances.

Parents/carers have the right to be informed of any drug-related incident that affects their child. An exception to this is when the child is deemed 'at risk' and the Child Protection Service has been contacted. In this case, it is up to the CPS to decide the course of action.

Staff should be aware that if they a) fail to take action in a drug-related incident or b) allow drug use to continue on school premises, they could contravene the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. It should be noted that if the preservation of a confidence a) enables criminal offences to be committed, or b) results in serious harm to the pupil's health and welfare, criminal proceedings could ensue.

Unauthorised Substances

No substances are to be brought onto the school premises unless authorised by the Head Teacher or through the agreed protocol for the use of medicines on the school premises. This includes alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and medicines. This applies to anybody using the building regardless of age or whether they are staff or pupils of the school.

Pupils found in contravention of this section of the school policy, on school premises, will be dealt with in the following way:

- Staff members should inform the Head Teacher/DSL who will then contact parents. Parents' support will be sought in stressing to the pupil how the use of unauthorised substances in school is a serious breach of school rules.
- A suitable sanction will be considered. The severity of the sanction will depend upon various factors such as the age of the pupil, the circumstances of the incident, whether it is a pupil's first offence and whether it affected other pupils.
- The substance and associated paraphernalia such as matches or lighters found in a pupil's possession in school will be confiscated. They will be placed in a labelled envelope and kept securely until parents are able to collect them.

What to do in the event of finding a drug/unauthorized substance or suspected illegal substance

1. Take possession of the drug/substance and inform the Head Teacher, or if not available a senior member of staff.
2. **In the presence of a witness** the article should be packed securely and labelled with the date, time and place of discovery.
3. The package should be signed by the person who discovered it and stored in a secure place.
4. Police should be contacted immediately and arrangements should be made to hand the package over to them.

Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste any found substance.

In the event of discovering a hypodermic needle the incident should be recorded and the following procedure should be followed in order to protect all persons:

EXTREME CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN

1. Do NOT attempt to pick up the needle.
2. Cover the needle with a bucket or other container.
3. If possible, cordon off the area to make it safe.

4. Inform the Head Teacher or senior member of staff.
5. Contact Environmental Health.

What to do in the event of finding or suspecting a pupil is in possession of a drug

1. Request that the pupil hand over the article(s). Staff can ask pupils to turn out pockets or bags, but can not demand that this happens.
2. Having taken possession of the substance/paraphernalia, the procedure should be followed as above.
3. Pupils should be placed in isolation until the matter has been investigated.
4. Parents should be contacted as quickly as possible.

If a pupil refuses to hand over articles a search may be required – it should be noted that:

- Teachers can search school property, i.e. cupboards and trays without permission;
- Teachers should not search pupils or personal possessions.

Procedures for dealing with a child suspected to be under the influence of a drug or substance.

Stay calm, place child in a quiet area.

Do not leave them unsupervised; seek medical advice from a First Aider.

If the child is drowsy or unconscious place them in the recovery position, loosen tight clothing and attempt to establish what the child has taken.

Any suspected substances should travel with child if removed for treatment.

Vomit should be safely collected where possible and also taken with the child (for analysis).

Procedures for dealing with Parents/carers under the influence of drugs on the school premises.

Staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere.

If staff have concern regarding discharging a pupil in to the care of a parent/carer attempts should be made to discuss alternative arrangements with the parent/carer, for example requesting another family member to escort the child home.

The focus of the staff must be the maintenance of the pupil's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of the parent/carer immediately places the child at risk of significant harm or repeated behaviour places the child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police

The Head Teacher/DSL must complete a CPoms incident recording the nature of the incident and the subsequent action taken by the school.

When to contact the police

There is no legal obligation for the school to contact the police when a drug incident or offence has been discovered. Contacting the police is at the Headteacher's discretion. However, the school has established close liaisons with local police and any information about illegal sales of drugs including alcohol and tobacco will be reported to them.

In the event of a drug-related incident in the school, the school would cooperate with the police should they wish to search premises.

In the event of a serious incident the police may request to interview pupil(s). Parent(s)/carer(s) must be notified. They may refuse to give consent or prefer the interview to take place in their own home, in which case the police will make arrangements.

Parents/carers may give authority to a responsible adult, e.g. a teacher to be present during the interview.

Dealing with the Media

If there has been a drug-related incident, the LA will be informed. Advice will be given by the LA on dealing with enquiries from the media in order to protect the interests of the child and the school.

Discipline

In normal circumstances parents will be contacted. If the Head Teacher assesses that the situation is a child protection issue then CPS will be contacted in the first instance.

This school does not condone drug misuse. However, in deciding an appropriate sanction must consider the interests of the child balanced against the best interests of the whole school community.

Whilst exclusion is a possible sanction (fixed or permanent) it would only be considered as a last resort.

A range of responses may also be considered that may include:

- a pastoral support programme;
- referral to an appropriate agency;
- home-School contract;
- behaviour support plans;
- a managed move;
- fixed term exclusion;
- permanent exclusion.

Consideration should be given to:

- the age of the pupil;
- whether one pupil or a group of pupils is involved;
- whether there is evidence of particular peer pressure;
- whether it is the pupil's first offence.

Further help and support is available using the following links:

<https://www.changegrowlive.org/bromley-drug-alcohol-service/london-road> 0208 289 1999