



St George's Catholic Primary School

We are learning and growing together as God's family. We will always do our best to love and respect each other as we prepare for our future.

Drugs and Substance Misuse Education Policy

The implementation of drug education is of importance to St George's and is delivered through the PSHE curriculum and supported by visits from companies and other organisations that provide relevant workshops, such as The Life Bus. The PHSE subject leader supports colleagues in the teaching of drug and substance misuse education by giving them information about current developments in the subject and by providing a strategic lead and direction for the subject in school. The PSHE subject leader monitors drug and substance misuse education using the school's monitoring policy. Drug and substance misuse education is regularly evaluated and monitored and this feedback is used to inform future planning.

Links with Other Policies

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school approach to drug issues and should be read in conjunction with the DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools and the following school policies:

- Whole school behaviour (including anti-bullying)
- Safeguarding
- SEN
- Health and safety
- Administration of Medicines
- Physical Restraint Policy

The Purpose of This Policy is to:

- clarify the school's approach to drugs and substance misuse
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- give guidance to staff on the drug and substance misuse education programme
- enable staff to manage drug and substance misuse related incidents with confidence and consistency
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of the pupils and the school community
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's approach to drug and substance misuse education and its management of incidents
- Reinforce the role of the school in our involvement in the Healthy Schools' Programme.

Introduction

- The school is committed to the welfare and safety of all its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school does not condone the misuse of drugs and alcohol or the illegal supply or possession of these substances by its staff or pupils.
- The school aims to provide a school ethos, environment and curriculum where pupils are able to develop self-confidence, take responsibility and make informed, healthy and safe choices.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of the children and young people.

The policy applies to all pupils in the school and members of the school community. Any professional misconduct relating to drugs or substance misuse will be dealt with according to the internal rules of the school (and conditions of service) and dealt with by the Headteacher and governing body.

The term **drugs** in this policy refers to all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites; over the counter and prescription medicines and all illegal drugs.

The **policy applies** to:

- situations on the school premises, including building and grounds
- Off-site activities, visits and school trips including residential journeys.
- Adults involved with the school e.g. visitors, adults supporting school trips.

Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of children and young people with parents/carers and governors, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Members of staff with key responsibilities for this policy are:

- the Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher who will oversee and co-ordinate drug and substance misuse issues
- The PSHE subject leader who will oversee the drug and substance misuse education programme.

Drug Education

Drug use and misuse is part of our ever-changing society and drug related situations and incidents might occur in the lives of the pupils and others in our school. We believe we have a duty to inform and educate children and young people on drugs and drug related issues. We take a pro-active stance believing that education on these issues is a vital part of the personal, social, health and citizenship education of every pupil.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to provide learning opportunities to help children and young people make informed decisions about drugs by providing a curriculum that will enable them to develop and practise their skills, increase knowledge and understanding and consider and challenge attitudes towards drugs and drug related issues.

The **objectives** of the programme are to:

- promote children and young people's self esteem
- provide accurate information about drugs and their effects
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- help children and young people become more self-confident so they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives
- improve self-knowledge particularly in relation to risk taking
- keep themselves and others safe and encourage responsible behaviour in relation to drug use and misuse
- explore related health and social issues
- Enable children and young people to identify sources of support.

Responding to Drug and Substance Misuse Related Incidents

In order to support our aims and objectives members of the school community may on occasion need to take action with regard to a drug or substance misuse related incident. The

Headteacher / Deputy Headteacher in charge of pupil welfare take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the school's approach to drug incidents.

Drug related incidents might include:

- rumours or hearsay about drug use,
- allegation or suspicion of possession on school premises,
- pupils under the influence of a drug on the school premises,
- pupil disclosure about own use of drugs,
- pupil disclosure or school discovers parent/carer is using or selling drugs,
- Drugs or drug paraphernalia found on pupil or school premises, ▪ supply of drugs by pupils.

The following guidelines apply to drug related incidents:

- the needs and health and safety of the individual will come first
- all situations will be carefully considered and assessed before deciding on the response
- all incidents will be reported to the Headteacher
- parents /carers will be informed (unless this will jeopardise the safety of the pupil)
- the involvement of external agencies will be considered
- responses will include a variety of strategies and sanctions
- all incidents will be recorded and held internally by the Headteacher (data protection laws will apply)
- referral to the appropriate services

Each incident will be assessed individually to ensure the most appropriate responses and action is taken. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take and any sanction will be in line with other breaches of school rules. The school seeks to balance the interests of the pupil/s involved, other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion will only be used when it is considered that this is the appropriate sanction in terms of the severity of the offence and the fact that such behaviour may affect the discipline and well-being of the school community as a whole.

The school will use a repertoire of responses based on the individual circumstances and in line with existing school rules, codes and expectations. These may include:

- detention
- restriction from participating in particular school events/activities
- in school counselling and support
- referral to external agencies
- behaviour contracts
- pastoral support programme
- fixed term exclusion
- Managed move ▪ permanent exclusion.

Procedures for All Staff Members:

- if there is evidence of drug misuse take immediate action to reduce risk of harm to the pupil
- isolate the pupil/s if possible in separate rooms
- inform the Headteacher
- if the pupil is behaving erratically and physical intervention is required for their own safety or the safety of others or the environment, then the school's procedures found in the Physical Restraint Policy must be followed
- Make a full and careful assessment of the circumstances ▪ complete a written statement.

Procedures for Senior Pastoral Member of Staff

The Headteacher will enquire into the facts and identify the accuracy of the information:

- if a pupil is suspected of concealing a substance that is not permitted on school premises or is thought to be illegal they will be asked to empty their pockets or bags or lockers – **(see separate section on searching)**
- If there is evidence, the school will take temporary possession of the substance. When doing this the school will:
 - ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout
 - seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of seizure/find and the witness present
 - store it in a secure location with limited access
 - notify the police, who will collect and dispose of the substance (the law does not require the school to divulge the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken)
 - record full details of the incident
 - inform parents/carers unless this would jeopardise the safety of the pupil/s
- if there is no evidence the school will
 - collect as much information as possible before taking any action
 - Make a full assessment of the situation in particular gauging a pupil's needs ➢ make a record of incident and action taken.

Searching

It is not appropriate for a member of staff to conduct a personal search of a pupil, even for illegal drugs. **It is also not appropriate to search personal property without consent.** You should ask the pupil to voluntarily turn out their pockets and bags. If an individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal the school will consider whether to call the police. Staff may search school property (e.g. cupboards) if they believe drugs to be stored there. **Prior consent should be sought.** If this is refused the school will consider whether the likelihood that an offence has occurred outweighs the risk of infringing the individual's privacy.

Procedures for Reporting

- consider the assessment of the situation,
- inform parent/ carers,
- decide on the appropriate response/s,
- Contact external agency, including the police, if appropriate, ▪ communicate with the media, if appropriate.

Dealing with Drug Paraphernalia

Needles or syringes (or other drug paraphernalia) should be placed in a sturdy, secure container using gloves. Needles and syringes should not be placed in domestic waste.

Confidentiality

Members of staff cannot guarantee complete confidentiality for a pupil who may have a problem linked with drugs. The pupil must always be told what information is going to be passed on and to whom. If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request should be honoured

unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- child protection
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external agencies.

Staff have a duty to inform the appropriate authority (designated safeguarding lead) in the following circumstances:

- Where there is a child protection issue, ▪
where the life of the person is at risk.

The school will always consider the health and safety of the pupil when making a decision on how to respond to any disclosure about possession, supply or use of unauthorised drugs.

Dealing with Parents/Carers under the Influence of Drugs or Alcohol on School Premises

When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. If a member of staff has concerns about releasing a pupil into the care of a parent/carer the school will try and discuss with the parent/carer alternative arrangements. The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the pupil's welfare. Where the behaviour of the parent/carer places a pupil at risk the school will consider whether to follow child protection procedures.

Dealing with the Media

The Headteacher, in conjunction with the chair of governors, will take responsibility for liaison with the media and will consult with the Harrow Council Communications Department.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Governors and senior staff will take a key role in monitoring and evaluating this part of the policy that will include reviewing the:

- number of repeated offences following different kinds of sanctions,
- Number of fixed term and permanent exclusions associated with drug misuse, ▪
number of pupils re-integrated following a period of temporary exclusion.

Tobacco

The school is a smoke free school.

Alcohol

Alcohol is allowed on school premises for specific events confirmed by the Headteacher. It is stored in a locked cupboard in the office. Alcohol served for specific events to be bought by parents must be done only under the appropriate licence laws and through the application of a licence from the council (e.g. for PSA events). The Headteacher must be notified, in advance, of any request to submit an application for a licence.

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