



ST CHARLES'
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION
POLICY

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<u>AGREED: JANUARY 2018</u>	<u>REVIEWED: JANUARY 2020</u>	<u>NEXT REVIEW: JANUARY 2022</u>

Our Mission at St Charles' Catholic Primary School is to...
LOVE, LEARN, GROW TOGETHER

St Charles' Catholic Primary School

Drug Education Policy

At St Charles' Catholic Primary School we believe that Drug Education is important to help the children to have the information and understanding available, so that they can make informed life choices that promise good health. We are aware that problems of drug abuse are widespread in society today and feel it is essential to provide our children with the knowledge, skills and values that will help to protect them in the future.

The drug education programme will be taught within the moral framework of our Catholic ethos within our mission statement.

Equal Opportunities

St Charles' Catholic Primary School is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. All resources used will support this commitment

Aims of the policy

St Charles' Catholic Primary School believes that drug education in this school will be developmental and provide a foundation for further development in the secondary school. It will mainly be covered under the umbrella of Health Education, PSHE, RE & Science. Where appropriate, outside agencies may be invited to speak to the children. It will be important that drug education is taught within a child-centred approach, to start with children's own experiences and knowledge.

The whole school will work towards these aims in partnership with parents.

The aim of the drug education policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school.
- to clarify the content and manner in which drug education will be delivered in school.
- ensure a consistent approach from staff to drug education and in handling of drug education incidents.
inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse and the importance of safety with medicine.
- give children the skills to manage peer pressure.
- build up self esteem of pupils.
- help pupils acquire decision making skills.
- encourage respect for self, family, friends and the wider community.
- create a climate where young people feel comfortable discussing issues relating to drugs
- foster skills that empower children to take responsibility for their own health.

Definition of Drugs

By the term drugs we mean any substance which when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

The term 'Drug' Includes

- Alcohol, Cigarettes, Solvents, Medicine, Illegal drugs

Smoking Policy

This is a no smoking school and smoking is not allowed anywhere on the premises.

Programme Outline

Drug Education will be taught mainly within the Health Education framework, it will also be included in PSHE, Science and RE. Drug education focuses on knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. The teaching programme ensures that there is a progression from year 3 to year 6, with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of pupils. Work focuses on safe use of medicines, effects and risks of smoking and alcohol, resisting pressure to do wrong and making safe decisions. Older children will look at some aspects of illegal drugs.

Delivery

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values as well as learn knowledge, practise skills to cope with drug- related situations and engage actively in their own learning. Such activities include role-play, discussions, debates, research, games etc. Issues of healthy life choices will be addressed through assemblies, lessons, story time etc. Outside agencies may be used to support and assist the teachers in drug education programmes.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of the Policy

Pupils' progress in drug education is assessed as part of the PSHCE and citizenship assessment and Science assessment. Pupils' knowledge, attitudes and skills are assessed through a range of methods including end of topic self assessment and teacher assessment. Monitoring and evaluation help to plan future delivery and lesson planning and ultimately to improve the quality of teaching and learning. The PSHE subject leader is responsible for monitoring and evaluation. A range of methods are used including lesson observations and looking at pupils' work. Teachers evaluate the drug education programme through completing end of topic evaluations and evaluations of outside contributors.

Recording

In St Charles' Catholic Primary School, a drug related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school grounds. This covers on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits (residential or other) school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Drug related incidents in primary school can involve the smoking of cigarettes, a parent/carer collecting a child whilst intoxicated or under the influence, misuse of another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosure about a family member with a drug problem or syringes found by the caretaker around the school grounds.

All drug related incidents must be reported to the Headteacher. All drug related incidents will be recorded and kept confidential. In all incidents the Headteacher will decide on the appropriate response including the use of sanctions and support. Parents/Carers will be involved at the earliest possible stage. Support agencies, including the LA School Drug Support Advisor or/and the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements. Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors.

It is very rare for primary age pupils to misuse drugs in school; however should a medical emergency occur the normal procedures will apply. Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately. If unconscious, the pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called. Parents will be immediately called to the school.

Management of authorised drugs

See Pupils with Medical Conditions policy

Confidentiality

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of a child, they must inform the Headteacher.

Complaints Procedures

Any complaints about the drugs education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher who will report to the Governors, if necessary.