

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

Inspiring everyone to **REACH** through Faith, Hope, Love

At St Joseph's, we strive for academic excellence through encouraging resilience, empathy, aspiration and challenge. We have high expectations for ALL so that we can be 'The best we can be.' With Faith, Hope and Love at the heart of our school family, our children feel safe, secure and supported.



Drugs Policy

Our ethos is one that nurtures education through recognition and celebration of all children's experiences and achievements, whatever the context. Each child is unique and made in the likeness of God. Every child should succeed at their own level and be praised for this success

Approved by: Resources Committee
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Introduction

Our ethos is one, which nurtures education through the recognition and celebration of all children's experiences and achievements, whatever the context. Each child is an individual and deserves to be respected and valued as such. Every child is unique and made in the likeness of God. Every child should succeed at their own level and be praised for this success.

We believe that parents are the first educators of their children but that drugs education is a responsibility which we share with them, families and the wider community.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward.

Purpose of the policy

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.
- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.

Aims

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse, including legal and illegal substances.

- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
- To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.
- To develop sympathetic yet realistic attitudes to others experiencing drug problems and understand ways in which those people can be helped.

Inclusive definition of Drugs

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Intended learning outcomes

Drug education will be taught as part of the PSHE programme. This will be either within class topics or be specifically taught as and when appropriate. The intended learning outcomes at each Key stage are:

End of Key Stage One

Knowledge - Every pupil should know:

- School rules relating to medicine.
- The role of medicines (both prescribed and over- the- counter) in promoting health and the reasons people take them.
- That all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.
- Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents.
- The dangers of alcohol and tobacco, their general effects on the body and behaviour.
- People who are involved with medicines (such as health professionals pharmacists, shopkeepers).
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.

Skills - Every pupil should be able to:

- Communicate feelings such as concerns about illness and taking medicines.
- Follow simple safety instructions.
- Decide when and how to get help from an adult.

Attitudes - every pupil should develop attitudes towards:

- Valuing one's body and recognising its uniqueness.
- The use of alcohol and cigarettes.
- The media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol and smoking.

End of Key Stage Two

Knowledge - Every pupil should know:

- School rules relating to medicines.
- More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to take care of it.
- Different types of medicines (both prescribed and over-the-counter), legal and illegal drugs including their form,
- Their effect and their associated risks.
- Introductory information on the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.
- Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

Skills - Every pupil should be able to:

- Identify risks.
- Cope with peer influences.
- Communicate with adults.
- Be able to make decisions and be assertive in situations relating to drug use.
- Give and get help in difficult circumstances.
- Follow safe procedures when taking medicines.

Attitudes - Every pupil should develop attitudes towards:

- Valuing oneself and other people.
- Different drugs and people who may use or misuse them.
- The media and advertising presentations of alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs.
- Accepting responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.

Managing Drug related incidents

Guiding principles

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to them. The School's first responsibility is for the welfare of the individual, balanced with the need to protect the community as a whole.

The Headteacher will normally be responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and will support all concerned in ensuring the well-being of its pupils. Parents will be encouraged to become involved as much as possible in order to achieve a successful drugs education programme.

Pupils, staff and visitors to the premises are made aware of the school's drug policy.

Routine arrangements

- **Medicines** - The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.
- **Alcohol** - No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Alcohol is not permitted on the school premises except by the permission of the Headteacher. Any adult under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school.
- **Tobacco** - The school and its grounds are no smoking areas at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated.
- **Solvents** - The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of products such as solvents and aerosols. (only exception permitted aerosol is Ventolin / any other approved medicines administered in the presence of an adult and stored in a locked medicine cupboard.)
- **Illegal drugs** - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. To protect the health and safety of the school community regular checks will be made of the site to ensure that drug paraphernalia, particularly needles and syringes, are cleared away safely and legally.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related items on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises

- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours or reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Procedures

- **Medical emergencies** - If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.
- **Hearsay/Rumour** - Drug use is often discovered by hearsay. This should be passed on to the Headteacher and PSHE co-ordinator who should record the matter as hearsay evidence, thus enabling a record of teacher's concerns to be compiled. Where the hearsay evidence is not supported through further reports or incidents for one school year the evidence will be removed from the records.
- **Suspicious Behaviour** - Behaviour that could indicate involvement with drugs should also be logged so that patterns of behaviour can be observed and concerns acted upon where necessary.
- **Finding substances** - If a substance or equipment thought to be either illegal or harmful is discovered it should be removed to a place of safe keeping in the presence of a witness from the teaching staff. If the substance is known or suspected to be illegal the police must be informed. If a substance is found on a pupil the above procedure should be followed and the incident recorded including:
 - the date and time of the find or retrieval
 - the size and appearance of the substance
 - the names of those concerned
 - the action taken

Any equipment associated with drug misuse should be handled with care, recorded and in the case of such items as needles and syringes, they should be placed in a secure and rigid container for collection by the appropriate person. If these are found on a pupil, the pupil's parents should be informed.

- **Searching** - Storage areas within the school grounds are the property of the school, and the Headteacher, or her representative may authorise a

search of these if there is reasonable suspicion. This must be carried out in the presence of a witness and the named pupil if this applies. Staff should not search a pupil's property or person but should try to persuade the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance by asking to turn out pockets, or bags. If it is absolutely necessary to search a pupil a police officer will be required, and parents informed as soon as possible. The police officer will only be able to carry out a search if there are reasonable grounds to suspect the pupil is in possession of an illegal substance.

- **Finding Drugs** - If children are found in possession of tobacco, alcohol, glue, solvents or prescribed or over-the-counter medicines, parents will be informed and appropriate steps taken.

In an emergency arising from an incident involving abuse, the well-being of the pupil is paramount.

In all instances:

- separate the child involved from the rest of the group.
 - decide and implement the next best step in terms of the child's welfare.
 - inform parents.
- **Supply of illegal substances** - It is an offence to produce or supply any controlled drug on school premises. The police will be involved in such circumstances.
 - **Returning articles which have been confiscated** - Articles confiscated and not required by the police must be returned to parents. They will be informed in writing within 24 hours of articles confiscated and an explanation given as to why it is inappropriate to return the article to the child. It will be made clear that there is a time limit of one week for the items to be recovered or they will be disposed of by the school.
 - **Recording** - All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours.
 - **Confidentiality** - Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, particularly when seeking support, this information will not be used against them notwithstanding any illegal / controlled substances. However action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the pupil to be involved in the process.

Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their information may implicate others.

Staff Training and Support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Headteacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will try to organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities.