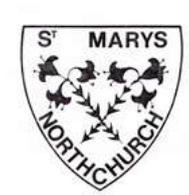


*Excellence Together, Learning Through Faith.*



# St Mary's C of E (VA) Primary School

As a Church School we seek to ensure that the ethos and principles of Christianity underpin the experiences of the children in our care.

“St Mary's is an inclusive school where we believe that all people are of equal value, irrespective of their ethnicity, culture, religion, gender, ability or sexual identity. We recognise and respect their differences.”

## Drug Policy

This policy is GDPR compliant.

Date of issue: March 2017

Last reviewed/adopted: February 2019 (Ethos Committee)

Next review date: Spring 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This school defines the term 'drug' as:

**“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”.**

This refers to all drugs:

- Legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and poppers;
- Over the counter and prescription medicines;
- Illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of drugs Act 1971) including ecstasy, cannabis, crack/cocaine, heroin and LSD;
- Other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents), new psychoactive substances (legal highs), Ketamine and Khat.

### **Value and Aims**

Set in the broader context of a programme for Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, Citizenship and Science, our drug education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.

All non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable. The school is legally required to be smoke-free, following changes to legislation (July 2007).

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and wellbeing of the pupils beyond these school boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

### **Who was consulted?**

The process of policy writing involved consultation between the Headteacher, representatives of teaching and non-teaching staff, school governors, parents/carers, the school council.

Further guidance came from the Hertfordshire County Council Drug Education Guidance document and national guidance, specifically DCSF “*Drugs: Guidance for Schools*” which was updated in 2009 and DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012.

### **Rationale**

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to prepare them to make informed choices which contribute to their wellbeing and to their future.

### **We aim to:**

- To provide a safe, healthy environment in which pupils and staff can learn and develop and to enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To ensure all members of the school community know and understand the rules of the school, the expectations about their behaviour, and the policy regarding drug incidents and concerns about individuals.

- To help young people to develop further a sense of self-worth and self-esteem.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To help young people to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- To counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- To support and engage parents/carers and pupils in their own personal learning and responsibilities.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- To enable pupils and staff to identify where help and support can be found.
- To work with advisory services and other outside agencies including the voluntary sector to secure and support a balanced delivery of a drugs education programme.
- To develop as a Health Promoting School.

#### **We intend to achieve our aims through:**

- A co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and / or English as an additional language.
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and visitors, in order to promote a united and cohesive approach to substance education and misuse.
- Awareness of the impact that parental or family member drug misuse can have on a child and their education.
- Working in an integrated way with other local professionals.
- Training and support for staff in the planning and implementation of drug education.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for pupils and committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment; not using alcohol on premises; working in partnership with parents and carers.

#### **Teaching & Learning – curriculum, materials and approaches**

Drug education is a major component in preventing drug misuse. The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Drug education will be covered:

- Through planned elements of National Curriculum subjects, including Science, Religious Education, History, Drama, or Physical Education / Activity
- PSHE and Citizenship lessons
- Pastoral time

- Assemblies
- Through occasional planned visits from school nurse, police officer or other appropriate people/local organisation.
- Through informal curricular / extracurricular activities

Throughout the curriculum pupils will clearly be taught that all non-medical drugs on school premises are unacceptable. This extends to school visits.

### **Confidentiality**

Some pupils may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or to individual members of the school community. While staff will want to be supportive, they need to follow our Safeguarding guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

### **Roles and responsibilities**

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

### **Response to possible drug related incidents**

Our definition of a drug includes medicines (both prescription and OTC), alcohol, tobacco and solvents, and it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by LA and national guidance. (Ref: “*Drugs: Guidance for Schools*” DCSF, 2009 and and DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools 2012).

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In the absence of a medical emergency the Headteacher must be informed and an appropriate response considered. We will refer to the DCSF guidelines on responding to drug related incidents to determine the necessary response. The implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. **The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.**

Responses will be cross-referenced with related school policies such as:

- Behaviour
- Health and Safety
- Safeguarding
- School Visits
- Inclusion / Exclusion
- Medicines
- Drug and Alcohol

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents/carers or guardians at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve

any difficulties.

We have a range of professional colleagues who can give / obtain advice, support and information in drug or alcohol related situations. These may include:

- The school's Attendance Improvement Officer
- The county PSHE Advisor
- The county Drug Education Consultant
- A Hertfordshire Healthy Schools Advisor
- The school nurse
- The local police Youth Crime Reduction Officer (YCRO) / Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
- Local Drug and Alcohol agencies and counselling services

These colleagues can provide guidance and information, and may be able to help with a needs assessment to support us in developing an appropriate response.

Should a substance suspected of being illicit be found on the school premises it will be handed to the Headteacher and, in the presence of another member of staff, placed in a sealed container and both signed and dated. It should then be safely stored until it can be collected by a police officer. S/he will also be involved in advising the school on the most appropriate response to the situation. All such incidents will be recorded.

#### **Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing:**

- Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy are modified where appropriate.
- There is on-going monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current LEA and Government guidelines.