



# Christ the King Catholic Primary School



## Policy

Issue

06

## Drug Education

Date

16/11/21

### Introduction

The school recognises the increasing use of drugs in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance.

The term 'drug' throughout this policy refers to all drugs, including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

This policy identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and it draws from a knowledge of OFSTED inspection arrangements, National Curriculum and LA Curriculum policies. Guidance from the DfE: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)

This policy applies to all school staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school.

### Aims and Objectives

The school understands that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts, (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices, now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives;

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practice the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use misuse, benefits and harm.

### Management and Co-ordination

In accordance with government guidance (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)) the school has appointed a Drug Co-ordinator.

The Drugs Co-ordinator has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to governors, senior managers, curriculum leaders, classroom teachers and support staff. The Co-ordinator will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is thoroughly discussed and understood,
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified,
- The underpinning aims, values and attitudes of drug education are made explicit,
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school
- Equality of opportunity is promoted,
- Provision is made for continued professional development within the field of drugs awareness and drug education,
- The link between drug education and other school policies e.g. Child Protection, Discipline/Behaviour policy.

### **Staffing and Staff Development**

All staff, including support staff, need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities. Areas of staff expertise and individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development systems. This will be ascertained through: e.g. staff audit, classroom observation, scrutiny of planning, performance management, etc.

### **Curriculum Organisation and Planning**

Drug education will be delivered through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. This will take the form of:

- **Discrete curriculum time**

By e.g. identifying drug education within the planned curriculum for all pupils – especially science and PSHE.

- **Through and in other curriculum areas**

By e.g. identifying and planning for opportunities within other curriculum areas especially within science, PSHE and Citizenship.

- **Through activities, school events and ethos**

By e.g. involvement in the National Healthy Schools Standard, pupils listening and supporting each other, the taking of responsibility, good relationships, positive behaviour, challenging stereo types, being aware of the language we use, the use of support and guidance systems.

The responsibility for the provision of drug education is held by the Head Teacher.

The responsibility for the taught drug education programme is held by the Co-ordinator. In this role the Co-ordinator, in consultation with staff, parents, pupils and governors will develop key stage plans and schemes of work taking into account the National Curriculum requirements, school priorities for the personal and social development of the pupils, local priorities and initiatives, government policies and the special needs and maturity levels of individual pupils.

Class teachers will be responsible for delivering drug education programmes and for developing lesson plans which will include clearly identified learning outcomes. The school will ensure progression and continuity in all aspects of drug education through monitoring of the subject by the co-ordinator and senior management team.

### **Curriculum Delivery**

Teaching about drugs is generally best provided as part of an integrated programme of Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship. This programme is relevant to the needs and experiences of all pupils, is flexible and develops as pupils grow older. The programme is developed within a positive climate in which pupils and adults feel able to talk openly and honestly.

In order to cover effectively all the aspects of drug education, a wide range of teaching and learning styles will need to be employed.

Resources which support this area of the curriculum will be up-to date, relevant to pupils and presented in ways that are consistent with the fundamental aims of PSHE and Citizenship. Overall responsibility for drug education resources is held by the Co-ordinator.

A list of existing drug education resources is attached to this policy document.

In addition to existing resources, the school aims to review and update drug education resources regularly in accordance with budget allocation.

### **Vulnerable Pupils**

The school is aware that some pupils are more vulnerable to drug misuse and other social problems. The table below illustrates the range of risk and protective factors associated with drug misuse.

<b>Vulnerable groups</b>	<b>Risk factors</b>	<b>Protective factors</b>
Homeless Looked-after children School truants Pupils excluded from school Sexually abused In contact with mental health and criminal justice system Children of parents with drug problems	Chaotic home environment Parents who misuse drugs or suffer from mental illness Behaviour disorders Lack of parental nurturing Inappropriate and/or aggressive classroom behaviour School failure Poor coping skills Low commitment to school Friendship with deviant peers Low socio-economic status Early age of first drug use Being labelled as a drug misuser	Strong family bonds Experience of strong parental monitoring with clear family rules Family involvement in the lives of children Successful school experiences Strong bonds with local community activities A caring relationship with at least one adult

The school can help to reduce the impact of risk factors and strengthen protective factors by promoting:

- Supportive and safe relationships,
- Regular school attendance,
- The ability to cope well with academic and social demands at school,
- Strong and supportive social networks,
- Good social skills,
- Realistic self awareness and self-esteem,
- A good knowledge of general health and how to ensure good mental health,
- A good knowledge of how to access help and information,
- Work with parents / carers, particularly around communication and setting boundaries,
- Participation in extra-curricular activities,
- Counselling and other support mechanisms.

### **External Agencies and Services**

The school values and encourages the involvement of external agencies and services in supporting the delivery of this area of the curriculum. Where outside speakers are to be involved their contribution will be properly planned as part of the overall programme. Their contribution will compliment other teaching and be appropriate to the age and

maturity of the pupils involved. Class teachers will always be involved so they can deal with questions and concerns.

### **Partnerships**

The school values working in partnership with parents and carers and with the wider school community, and sees this as an essential element of developing this policy and the school's drug education programme. This policy was formulated following staff discussions and consultation with support staff, parents, governors, Coventry Health Authority colleagues.

We also aim to support parents in their efforts to inform and support their children. We do this through parents' meetings, the school prospectus, and curriculum leaflets.

### **Equality of Opportunity**

In accordance with school and LA policy, a commitment to Equal Opportunities is built into all aspects of drug education. We recognise that some pupils with learning difficulties may need more help than others in understanding what sorts of behaviours are/are not acceptable. Where pupils are taking prescribed medication they will be helped to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs. These elements will be ensured through provision for SEN/EAL pupils, resources used, explicit teaching about discrimination and stereotyping, promoting respect for others, a positive school ethos.

### **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

The assessment, recording and reporting of drug education will take place in accordance with whole school policy.

Understanding in drug education will be demonstrated through assessment against learning objectives, which will be built into curriculum planning. A variety of assessment techniques will be used, including e.g. discussion, scrutiny of work, pupil self-assessment, peer assessment, project assessment, etc.

The reporting of individual achievement and progress will include skill development and values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and understanding. Progress in these areas will be reported through e.g. written reports to parents, science attainment targets, exercise of responsibility and contribution to the life of the school. Feedback to individual pupils will be orally and in written form.

### **Monitoring, Evaluation and Review**

Provision for drug education, including the personal development of pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by Senior Management and the PSHE and Citizenship/Drug Education Co-ordinator. This will be done by e.g. checking that whole school Drug Education objectives are met, standards of teaching and learning expected are achieved, that there are adequate resources, Schemes of Work are being taught appropriately, use of National Healthy Schools approach, consultation with staff, pupils, parents and governors.

### **Managing Drug Related Incidents**

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise the need for clear procedures should an incident occur. We have identified a range of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, which reflect different kinds of drug-related offences.

### **Pupil Discipline and Support**

The Head Teacher will be responsible for deciding how to respond to particular incidents, and all factors influencing the incident will be taken into account e.g. the age of the pupil concerned, whether the incident involved one pupil or a group of pupils and whether there is evidence of particular peer group pressure. Our Behaviour Policy and Code of Conduct have clear disciplinary measures that will be applied to drug related incidents and a variety of consequences/sanctions are possible. Exclusion may be appropriate in certain serious cases. In any such case the school will ensure that the excluded pupil has access to

professional support and advice from health and counselling services. All incidents will be recorded.

### **Confiscation of an Illegal Drug and its Disposal**

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug, but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the pupil refuses, the Head Teacher may decide to contact parents and/or the Police Schools Liaison Officer. We will always inform parents if the police are called to an incident. (As our primary concern is the welfare of all our pupils alternative action may be taken, for example, if we feel that parents are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously over-react and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies.)

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal. It should be placed in a sealed container and the police informed so they can collect it as soon as possible for disposal. We will always ensure that a witness is present when taking temporary possession of any drug. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues.

We will keep a written record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case.

Police Involvement: The police will be contacted to dispose of any illegal drug(s) found on a person(s) or the school site. The School Police Drugs Liaison Officer is:

DC		Shaun	Gould
Tel	No:	0845113	5000
Mobile:	07775 705149		

This section should be read in conjunction with the relevant sections from:

- a) DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)
- b) The School / West Midlands Police / LA partnership arrangements

### **Dealing with Drug Related Litter on or near School Premises**

The Site Services Officer is responsible for checking the school site daily. Any drug related litter will be carefully removed using the advice in the "Guidance on the Safe Disposal of Discarded Needles and Syringes" policy, downloadable from [www.coventrylearning.net](http://www.coventrylearning.net) - PSHE document exchange. The Head Teacher will be notified immediately.

### **Searches**

The School will always seek consent and ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused the school will need to consider whether to call the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment and distress.

For more detail on:

- Personal searches
- Searches of school property
- Searches of personal property

See Drugs: Guidance for Schools – Section 4.10 – Pages 62 / 63.

### **Managing Parents/Carers Under the Influence of Drugs**

Teachers need to assess the situation carefully. It is important to alert Senior Staff or the Head Teacher immediately. If the pupil is thought to be at 'risk' or in 'harm' by handing over to the parent, the school can, in extreme circumstances, refuse to hand over the pupil. This can only happen if the parent is in no fit state to take care of the pupil. The appropriate services must be notified immediately. This will most likely be Social Services

or the Police. The Child Protection Co-ordinator will need to record the situation and action(s), clearly following local child protection procedures.

### **Confidentiality and Handling Disclosures**

Refer to Drugs: Guidance for Schools – Section 4.3 – Pages 54 / 55.

### **Involvement of Parents/Carers**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drug education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in school;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- Inform parents of any drug incident or situation involving their pupil, unless it is a child protection issue. Under these circumstances the Headteacher and the Child Protection Co-ordinator will be informed immediately and child protection procedures followed;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

### **Monitoring**

Governors are responsible for the monitoring of this policy. They will be kept informed of any issues through the Head Teacher's report.

### **Review**

This policy will be reviewed periodically according to the School's policy review cycle. The review will involve all staff, pupils, parents and governors through consultation and discussion.

### **Review history**

Issue 01	Policy approved by Governors	28/01/13
Issue 02	Policy reviewed	20/01/14
Issue 03	Reviewed	20/01/15
Issue 04	Reviewed	20/01/16
Issue 05	Reviewed	30/01/17
Issue 06	Reviewed	16/11/21