



SAINT JOHN'S

# Drug Education Policy

Designated Member of Staff	Inclusion Lead
Committee with responsibility	Resources
Date of Issue	Summer 2020
Frequency of Review	Annual

Issue Number	Issue Date	Summary of Changes
1	December 2021	Review and re-formatting of the policy
2	May 2023	Review of the policy
3	August 2024	Review of the policy

The Drug Education Policy at Saint John's Primary School is informed by our Saint John's vision of our school being a place "where we all flourish" and by our Christian Values which underpin every aspect of the school community, including the curriculum.

### **The Philosophy of the School**

The school's philosophy aims to provide a stimulating and caring environment in which each child may experience high standards of education and preparation for the future, working in partnership with parents and the local community. The Policy for Drug Education is written in accordance with this philosophy.

Saint John's Primary School aims to fulfil the educational needs of as wide a group of children as are represented in the local community. The children come from a varied cross section of the local community and represent different social ethnic and religious values, beliefs and customs.

### **Purpose of the Policy**

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency
- Give guidance on implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

### **Drug Education in the Curriculum**

Drug education at Saint John's Primary School will:

- Encourage pupils to gain an understanding of drugs and medicines and their role in modern society
- Dispel myths by providing clear and accurate information
- Ensure that pupils explore and challenge their own and others' values and attitudes towards drug use
- Enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices now and in later life

### **Aims of Drug Education**

Through drug education we seek:

- to minimise the risk that users and potential users face
- to enable informed choice
- to provide accurate information
- to create an environment where pupils feel able to explore and discuss drug related issues
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- to enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate support
- to encourage understanding about related health and wider social issues.

## **Organisation of Drug Education in the School**

Drug education will be taught through our PSHE scheme, Coram Life Education SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) Y1-Y6, with one of the key themes focusing on Keeping Safe and running from Y1-Y6. However, further opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other areas of the curriculum.

## **Content Taught**

The overall aim is to encourage pupils to think very seriously about the consequences of using drugs of any kind for non-medical reasons.

In KS1 pupils learn about being safe with medicines and household substances and the basic skills for making healthy choices and following safety rules.

In KS2 pupils learn about the effects and risks of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs and basic skills to manage risky situations. They learn to make informed choices about their health, how to resist pressure to do wrong and to take more responsibility for their actions.

## **Resources**

All resources have been chosen by the PSHEe Lead in consultation with the Head Teacher. Advice was also taken from a PSHEe Consultant. The main resources are from the Coram Life Education – SCARF scheme of work with some Gloucestershire Healthy Living and Learning (GHLL) resources, as well as appropriate resources from the Science scheme of work.

## **Citizenship Education**

Citizenship at all stages can contribute to drug education, by providing opportunities for pupils to:

- understand rules and laws
- consider different points of view
- explore moral, social and cultural issues
- discuss and debate topical issues

## **Management of Drug Related Incidents**

The school recognises that a drug related incident may be identified through the discovery of a substance and/or someone found in possession, or having to respond to incidences of suspicion and/or rumour. An incident may also arise from the discovery of drug related paraphernalia (syringes, etc)

The school acknowledges that each drug related incident should be treated individually and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary to deal with incidents.

The term 'drug' refers to all drugs including medicines, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

## **Disposal of Drugs**

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug.

In taking temporary possession or disposing of suspected illegal drugs schools are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present
- seal the sample in a plastic bag, including details of the date and time of seizure
- store it in a secure location e.g., school safe
- **without delay** notify the police who will collect and dispose of the substance
- record full details of the incident
- inform parents / carers of the child-unless this would endanger the safety of the child

Under no circumstance should the substance be kept overnight on the premises or in the possession of any member of staff.

### **Disposal of Drug Paraphernalia**

Needles or syringes should be placed in a “sharps container” and disposed of in the correct manner.

### **Parents or Carers Under the Influence of Drugs on the School Premises**

When dealing with parents under the influence of drugs on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere and ask for another member of staff to be present. If a teacher has concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent or carer, the teacher should discuss with the parent whether alternative arrangements can be made, for example, if another adult can assist the parent or the child goes home with an agreed/named adult.

The focus for staff will always be the child’s welfare and incidents will be formally recorded and reported to the Headteacher.

Where the behaviour of a parent/carer repeatedly places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent staff should, in discussion with the Headteacher, decide whether to invoke child protection procedures or the involvement of the police.

### **Staff with Key Responsibility for Drugs**

The administration of medicines/drugs will be supervised by the first -aider and first-aid representatives, with the permission of parents only.

All medicines/drugs are in a central location in the first aid box outside the staff toilets or in the staffroom where children do not have access and are clearly labelled. However, asthma inhalers are to be kept with the child, unless the child is not considered responsible enough to do so.

### **Recording and Reporting**

A record of all drug related incidents will be kept for the protection of staff and pupils involved. The Headteacher will be responsible for the recording of drug related incidents within the school. Such records will be maintained centrally and will detail the nature of the incident and the action taken.

### **Dealing with Rumour and Hearsay**

The school will deal responsibly with any information gained through rumour or hearsay. The decision whether to attempt to substantiate the information will depend on the circumstances involved, recognising that opening up a discussion based on rumours can be harmful. A record will be kept on any action taken.

**Dealing with the Media**

In the case of contact or interest from the media on any drug related issue, the Headteacher will be informed before any response is made. The Governing Body and, where appropriate, parents, will be kept informed. Guidance will be sought from the LA Press Office.

**Police Involvement**

The school reserves the right where appropriate to contact the police with regard to any incident. There is no legal obligation on the school to inform the police of incidents, although it is recognised that they may be able to provide relevant support and advice. Parents will always be contacted in connection with any drug related incident.