



Drug Education Policy

Reviewed July 2021

1. AIMS

- 1.1 To be a Catholic school where all members of the community live according to Gospel values and the principles and teachings of Mary Ward, promoting the virtues of freedom, sincerity, justice, truth and joy, to allow all members of the community to feel secure and able to work and live in an atmosphere of courtesy and mutual respect.
- 1.2 The Governors seek to ensure that the values of Mary Ward are reflected in the planning and delivery of all policies. The principle values covered by this policy are:
 - Sincerity – This policy aims to show that organisational and personal integrity are the cornerstones of our dealings with others.
 - Freedom – This policy aims to ensure that pupils are protected from harm caused by actions which may become addictive and are thereby given the freedom to live their lives to the full.
- 1.3 To create a caring and stable environment, in which each person is respected as an individual with unique gifts, talents and ambitions, and is given the freedom and confidence to develop these.
- 1.4 To deliver drug education through the Learning for Life programme. This will reflect the whole school aim to provide a stable and caring community, in which young people learn to respect themselves and others, develop further their sense of self-worth and self-esteem, and take responsibility for their own actions.
- 1.5 To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse, in order to help young people to distinguish between different substances and consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- 1.6 To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs and the needs of parents and carers.

2. DEFINITION

- 2.1 This school defines the term 'drug' as: **"A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave"** and therefore includes tobacco, vape, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- 3.1 We believe that the purpose of drug education is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices, by giving them the knowledge, skills and the understanding of related health, social and legal issues that will allow them to explore attitudes and relate the benefits of a healthy life-style to their own actions, both now and in the future.

- 3.2 This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and well being of the pupils beyond these school boundaries, and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.
- 3.3 Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information including the FRANK service, NHS smoking services and Drinkline.
- 3.4 Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for drug education with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.
- 3.5 Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances are rising, it is important to recognise that many people are choosing not to do so. We will support their differing needs.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 The Governing Body has responsibility for setting and maintaining the principles underlying the school's policy and reviewing and endorsing agreed strategies through the Personnel and Curriculum Committees.
- 4.2 Taking advice from the PSHE and Learning for Life Co-ordinator, the Headteacher and Leadership Team will oversee the framing of the policy, a draft of which will be given to the Governing Body to be considered and approved after consultation with other stakeholders. The Headteacher and Leadership team will also organise support for the implementation of the policy.
- 4.3 The PSHE and Learning for Life Co-ordinator has responsibility for liaising with the County Drug Education Consultant and the Police Community Support Officer. She will work with the Headteacher and Leadership Team to ensure that the policy meets all statutory requirements and follows County and Diocesan guidelines. The PSHE and Learning for Life Co-ordinator will also work closely with the Head of Science to support the implementation of the policy.
- 4.4 Heads of Year have responsibility for ensuring that the school's policy and procedures are applied in each year.
- 4.5 All members of staff, including teachers, support staff and volunteer helpers will support the school's Drug Education Policy and do everything in their power to implement it.
- 4.6 Pupils will do everything in their power to act in accordance with the school's policy.
- 4.7 Parents will do everything in their power to support the school's policy. They will be alert for signs of the abuse of substances and contact the school if they have cause for concern.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY

5.1 Key Points

- There will be a co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
 - There will be training and support for staff in the planning and implementation of drug education.
 - The whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and visiting speakers, will be involved.
- 5.2 As well as planned elements of National Curriculum subjects, including Science and R.E., an appropriate PSHE and Citizenship Programme will be delivered across all key stages and

departments. *This is an effective context for drug education because it focuses on developing skills and exploring attitudes, as well as learning about healthy lifestyles.* Pastoral time, assemblies, Retreats and visits from other appropriate people will also be used to deliver drug education. Content and teaching approaches will be employed to match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or EAL. Regular revision of policy and practice will take place.

- 5.3 The content of the whole programme of drug education will counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information. The programme will also encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs) and enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found.

6. **CONFIDENTIALITY**

- 6.1 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 Child Protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

7. **RESPONSE TO POSSIBLE DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

- 7.1 Our definition of a drug includes medicines (both prescription and OTC), alcohol, tobacco, vape and solvents, and it is therefore important that all aspects of an incident, including the use of paraphernalia are considered. **The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount.**
- 7.2 We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of actions in response may be necessary as recommended by Hertfordshire County Council and the DfE (DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools: September 2012). If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.
- 7.3 A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.
- 7.4 The Headteacher will determine how and when parents/carers or guardians, or police will be informed. The Headteacher will also decide whether any periods of fixed or permanent exclusion are appropriate after a thorough investigation and consultation with all involved bodies.
- 7.5 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.
- 7.6 Our aim is to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential. We will work with the pupil, her parents/carers and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement, and resolve any difficulties that exist.
- 7.7 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 will then be safely stored whilst a full investigation and or support is gathered. All such incidents will be recorded.
- ## 8. **PUPILS WHOSE PARENTS/CARERS OR FAMILY MEMBERS MISUSE DRUGS**
- 8.1 We will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Most are pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's

needs and in safeguarding the children in their care. Screening is important in assessing needs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will follow the procedures set out in its drug policy. This should include protocols for assessing the pupil's welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, the family.

9. **TOBACCO/VAPE – SMOKE FREE SCHOOLS**

9.1 The minimum age for smoking/vaping is 18 and we are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

- The school is a smoke-free site.
- Children, young people, staff, parents/carers and governors have been involved in the development and implementation of a smoke-free site;

Children and young people should understand the non-smoking policy.

10. **MANAGING MEDICINES**

10.1 Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. The school matron manages the use of prescribed medicines in line with the documentation on Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings.

11. **MONITORING AND REVIEW**

11.1 The Leadership Team will monitor the implementation of the policy, and report annually to the Governing Body. The Governing Body will review the policy every year, consulting staff, pupils and parents in the process.