



Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School



Approved Drug Education Policy

Adopted by Governing Body : 8th December 2020

Signed  Chair of Governors .

To be reviewed: December 2023

Safeguarding Statement:

'Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the safety and welfare of all children and expects all staff, parents and volunteers to share this commitment.'

Our Vision

As a Catholic school that puts Christ at the centre, we are committed to encouraging everyone to 'Be the Best They Can Be'

Values and Ethos

We believe that everyone is made in the image and likeness of God and we value the equality of all, reject discrimination of any kind, and welcome the diversity of different cultures.

Introduction

We recognise the increasing drug use in the community of which our school is a part. 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 document, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

This policy applies to our school premises, day trips and residential visits.

Aims and Objectives

This school believes 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 to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need to ensure personal safety and avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse benefits and harm.

- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use/misuse
- To give accurate information about drugs
- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.

Management and Co-ordination

The PSHE 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 staff and is thoroughly discussed and understood
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified
- The underpinning aims and values of and attitudes towards drug education are made explicit
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school
- The equality of opportunity is promoted
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drugs awareness and drug education
- The link is made explicit between drug education and other school policies

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 staff audit, classroom observation, scrutiny of planning and performance management.

Curriculum organisation and planning

Drug education will be delivered through Life to the Full as part of Health and Relationship education.

The responsibility for the provision of drug education is held by the headteacher, SLT and the governing body.

The responsibility for the taught drug education programme is held by the co-ordinator. In this role, the co-ordinator will monitor and the delivery and assessment of the drug education.

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 complement 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.

Equality of Opportunity

In accordance with school and LA policy, a commitment to Equal Opportunities will be 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 behaviour 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 by provision for SEN/EAL pupils, resources used, explicit teaching about discrimination and stereotyping, promoting respect for others and a positive school ethos.

Assessment, Recording and Reporting

The assessment, recording and reporting of drug education will take place in accordance with the Life in the Full program. Attainment will be reported through annual written reports to parents.

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 co-ordinator.

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.

In all cases the headteacher should be informed immediately.

If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance. In cases where the school feels that a pupil is exposed to drugs within the home then the school's safeguarding procedures will be implemented.

Pupil Discipline and Support

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding how to discipline a pupil following any drug-related incidents in line with our Behaviour Policy.

Confiscating an illegal drug and its disposal.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal substances, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily surrender the drug. In any case, the Headteacher will contact parents and the Police. Any suspected drugs will be stored securely in the Headteacher's office until they can be safely disposed of. The Headteacher will consult with police regarding the most appropriate method of disposal.

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

Smoking Policy

Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the school site, including the grounds This includes the smoking of e-cigarettes. Any disregard for school restrictions on smoking will be treated as any other breach of school discipline.