

# ST PAUL'S C of E (aided) PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Drug and Alcohol Education Policy

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## **1. Why teach Drug and Alcohol Education?**

Children learn about drugs like medicines, alcohol and tobacco from their families and the community in which they live. They learn how their parents, brothers and sisters, friends and relatives treat these drugs by watching what they do and listening to what they say. Young children can also learn about drugs from television programmes and magazines that they see in their own homes, and in the homes of relatives and friends. **“Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs”** (Drugs: Guidance for schools, February 2004, department for education and skills).

Our school drug and alcohol education programme aims to give children accurate information about drugs and drug use. Pupils learn safety messages about medicines and develop the skills that they need to stay safe around drugs such as tobacco and alcohol.

The non-statutory framework for **Personal, Social, Health Education and Citizenship** and the **National Curriculum for Science** state that pupils should be taught:

### **At Key Stage 1:**

- What makes a healthy lifestyle, including the benefits of exercise and healthy eating.
- That all household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly.
- The role of drugs as medicines.

### **At Key Stage 2:**

- What makes a healthy lifestyle, including the benefits of exercise and healthy eating, what affects mental health, and how to make informed choices.
- Which commonly available substances and drugs are legal and illegal, their effects, risks, and how these relate to their personal health.
- That pressure to behave in an unacceptable or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know, and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do wrong.
- School rules about health and safety, basic emergency aid procedures and where to get help.

Within **The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**, children in Reception are taught to recognize the importance of keeping healthy, and those things which contribute to this. They are also taught to consider personal safety and recognize the potential dangers and ground rules for keeping safe.

## **2. Definition of terms**

**Drug:** A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave (Definition from United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

This document uses the term to include all legal drugs including tobacco and alcohol, all

illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

### **3. Aims of Drug and Alcohol Education**

The overall aim of drug and alcohol education within the school is:

To equip children with the necessary knowledge, skill and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

### **4. Objectives of Drug and Alcohol Education**

- To provide a range of activities and opportunities where accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them may be presented.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs.
- To provide opportunities to examine attitudes, values and feelings towards drug use in a climate where children can feel comfortable to participate and feel free to discuss their perceptions and needs.
- To promote the development of personal social skills relating to healthy behaviour and the opportunity to practise them and participate in healthy activities.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To develop children's decision making skills.
- To help children to maintain their own and each other's self-esteem.

### **5. What will be taught in Drug and Alcohol Education?**

The content of the school's Drug and Alcohol Education Programme, which is based on Surrey County Council Guidelines (November 2004), is set out in the PHSE scheme of work.

### **6. How will Drug and Alcohol Education be taught?**

The school provides a planned drug and alcohol education curriculum through the following:

- (i) The National Curriculum science order which outlines the content of the statutory drugs education.
- (ii) PSHE provision, Citizenship, and Circle time which will:
  - Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
  - Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
  - Provide accurate information about substances
  - Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
  - Widen understanding about related health and social issues
  - Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support.

On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education, but, where appropriate, outside agencies and visitors will also be included (e.g, school nurse, community police officers.)

### **7. Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation of Drug and Alcohol Education**

The PSHE co-ordinator will monitor the delivery of the programme through the sampling of work, discussion with pupils and staff, and observations.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of:

- pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- staff reviewing and sharing experiences
- assessment of pupil learning objectives/outcomes.

### **8. Parental Involvement in Drug and Alcohol Education**

The school believes that it is important to have the support of parents/carers and the wider community for the drug and alcohol education programme. Parents are given the opportunity to find out about and discuss the school's programme via access to the policy on the school's website.

### **9. Equal Opportunities in Drug and Alcohol Education**

In line with the equal opportunities policy and the provision in the P.H.S.E. policy we will

- actively promote non-sexist language
- discuss issues of equal opportunities
- develop a positive attitude to variety and difference.

### **10. S.E.N. in Drug and Alcohol Education**

Extra care will be taken to ensure sensitivity is shown towards children whose maturity, experience of family life and moral framework is a cause of concern.

### **11. Reviewing the Drug and Alcohol Education Policy.**

This policy will be reviewed with all staff on a 3 yearly cycle.

Date :May 2010

Review Date: May 2013

