

St Winifred's RC Primary School

Drug Education Policy



June 2015

St Winifred's RC Primary School

Policy for Drug Education

Introduction

The writing of this policy has involved consultation between the Head teacher, the teaching and non-teaching staff, governors on the School Improvement Committee, parents, pupils and the Drug Advisory Team in Stockport.

Research carried out at the end of 2000 showed that young people are experimenting with drugs at an earlier age, often being offered or trying drugs at the age of 12. Figures also show that the message about the dangers of tobacco that has been in our schools, and the publicity about not smoking in public places in England from July 07, has had positive effect in reducing the number of young people experimenting with of using tobacco. The school hopes that by providing the children with guidance, skills and information we will have made a significant impact on their attitude and avoidance of drugs.

The principal reason for this policy is the well being of the pupils and the school community. We endeavour to have a consistent approach among the staff in drug related matters. We wish to have a clear statement available to parents, OFSTED, members of staff and others. All members of the school community agree that the misuse of drugs on school property is inappropriate.

Definition

At St Winifred's the term 'drug' is defined as any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Solvents/volatile substances e.g. petrol, glue, aerosols
- Over-the-counter medicines e.g. aspirin, paracetamol
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin

Aims of this Policy

- To provide a clear statement of the school's view on drug education.
- To ensure a consistent approach from staff to drug education and in handling of drug –related incidents.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug use and abuse.
- To build up self-esteem.
- To help pupils acquire decision-making skills.
- To create a climate where young people feel comfortable discussing issues relating to drugs.
- To foster skills, that empower children to take responsibility for their own health.

Drugs education will be taught mainly within PSHE lessons and the skills taught and the approach taken are mainly the same in that both promote a healthy lifestyle. Drug education opportunities include:

- Planned cross-curricular e.g. through science, RE and SEAL work.
- Planned visits from outsiders e.g. school nurse, police
- Assemblies
- Through the use of story, circle time etc

Schemes of Work

Key Stage 1

Knowledge and understanding

- ◆ School rules relating to medicines.
- ◆ Basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body.
- ◆ The role of medicines (both prescribed and over-the-counter) in promoting health and the reasons people use them.
- ◆ Understanding that all drugs can be harmful if not used properly.
- ◆ Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home, including solvents.
- ◆ People who are involved with medicines (such as health professionals, pharmacists, shopkeepers).
- ◆ People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.

Skills

- ◆ Communicating feelings such as concerns about illness and taking medicines.
- ◆ Following simple safety instructions.
- ◆ When and how to get help from adults.

Attitudes

- ◆ Valuing one's body and recognising its uniqueness.
- ◆ Attitudes towards medicines, health professionals and hospitals.

Key Stage 2

Knowledge and understanding

- ◆ School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs.
- ◆ More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to take care of it.
- ◆ Different types of medicines (both prescribed and over-the-counter), legal and illegal drugs including their form, their effects and their associated risks.
- ◆ Introduction to the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs.
- ◆ People who can help children when they have questions or concerns.
- ◆ Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

Skills

- ◆ Identifying risks.
- ◆ Coping with peer influence.
- ◆ Communicating with adults.
- ◆ Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug use.
- ◆ Giving and getting help.
- ◆ Safety procedures when using medicines.

Attitudes

- ◆ Valuing oneself and other people.
- ◆ Attitudes and beliefs about different drugs and people who may use or misuse them.
- ◆ Responses to media and advertising presentations of alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs.
- ◆ Taking responsibility for one's own safety and behaviour.

Roles & Responsibilities

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community.

The role of Staff.

All staff have responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incident.

Teaching staff have a responsibility to contribute to the taught curriculum for drug education. They listen to the pupils and respond to their needs. These needs are met in specific drug education input as well as through a wider programme of personal and social skills development.

Response to possible drug related incidents.

The school will consider each situation individually and recognize that a variety of actions in response may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended by CSF and national guidance. If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

The misuse of any drug is regarded as a drug related incident. Children, parents or staff should immediately inform the Head Teacher if:

- Any evidence of substance misuse is found on school property
- A child is thought to possess such evidence
- They hear reports of a child being offered such evidence

-A child's behaviour/personality changes as a result of a possible drug digestion

The Head teacher takes overall responsibility for managing the incident and liaison with other organisations e.g. police and social services.

In line with the Stockport Response to Incidents, Protocol and the Screening Process the first point of contact when seeking support for pupils who are affected by drug misuse at home will be the MOSAIC School Based Service.

The role of Governors

There is a named governor responsible for overseeing the PSHE curriculum which includes drug education. They should be aware of training needs for staff relating to drug related incidents and their disciplinary response.

The role of Parents

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

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice.
- Answer any questions parents may have about drug education that the child receives in school.

Smoking

The school has a no-smoking policy which is strictly enforced, including on occasions when children are not present, e.g. PTA functions.

Medicines in school

The school has a separate policy for administering medicines and only prescribed medicines are administered in school.

Monitoring and review.

The Health and Safety committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs education policy on regular basis. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about our drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.