

St. Mary's Catholic Primary School

Drugs Policy



Aims

This policy supports our mission statement aim of nurturing children. The presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable for safety and/or legal reasons. This policy aims to safeguard pupils and staff and enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

Drugs Education

We recognise the increasing drug use in society. 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', includes prescribed and over the counter 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 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. Teaching and learning will be done through the curriculum in RE, RSHE, Science and PE. At times, teachers may use their discretion to deliver relevant lessons depending on the situation.

We have prioritised the following objectives:

- To promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their use misuse, benefits and harm.
- To minimize the harm from drugs to pupils.

Medicines at School – see policy for Medicines

Drug Incidents

An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.

The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated individual needs to be kept calm.

Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff must not taste unknown or confiscated substances.

Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.

Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff will not carry out a personal search but may search pupils' coats, bags and trays etc.

The headteacher will decide if the police need to be informed or whether the school will manage

the incident internally.

The headteacher will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a pupil is involved, parents will be informed and advised how school will respond to the incident.

A full record will be made of any incident.

Safeguarding Pupils

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving a pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be on the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

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