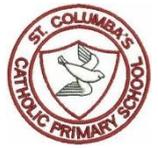


St. Columba's Catholic Primary School



Drugs Policy

OVERVIEW

Tackling the problems of drug use among young people remains high on the agenda, both for schools and for the government. Although the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs is not generally widespread amongst primary pupils, the number of children and young people using these rises sharply with age and is recognised as a cause for serious concern.

There is a consensus that early education in primary schools is vital if these trends among older children are to be addressed. The National Healthy Schools Strategy has strands that guide and accredit a drugs education programme in schools and a major element of this strand is safety and health education.

By drugs we mean all substances that affect our physical and emotional skills, this includes tobacco, alcohol, prescription and over the counter drugs, illegal drugs and volatile substances (including solvents and gas).

INTRODUCTION

No school can afford to be complacent or think that its young people are not at risk. Having an effective prevention strategy is not only important for schools but is a central part of tackling drugs use and misuse more generally in society. "Children will achieve most at school when their health and learning needs are met. That means achievements in their social and personal lives as well as academic results"

AIMS

At St Columba's Catholic Primary School we aim to provide our children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and develop to their full potential. Our drugs education programme teaches the children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and aims to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed decisions in relation to drugs in society.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To provide our children with knowledge and information about legal and illegal
- substances (drugs) and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives.

- To enable our children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- To help children respect their own bodies and in so doing reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug misuse.
- To encourage the children to become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed choices about their lives.
- To ensure that children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner following guidelines that have been agreed by the LEA, parents, governors and staff.

ORGANISATION

We at St Columba's Catholic Primary School regard drugs education as a whole school issue, and believed that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur through the curriculum.

Drugs education is delivered in a clear, concise and consistent manner in line the National and Local Guidelines.

At Key Stage 1, 5 - 7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines.

At Key Stage 2, 7 - 11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

The above elements represent the statutory minimum that schools must deliver to all children and young people. A themed Health and Fitness Week takes place annually.

EARLY YEARS

The schools' drug Education programme runs from Early Years, initially covering medicines, who keeps them safe and who looks after them. They are taught to respect themselves and others.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

The school is aware that due consideration should be given to the educational entitlement of all the children in its care and that they are taught appropriately.

ICT LINKS

The appropriate use of ICT Resources is used to augment and enhance the children's drug education.

THE ROLE OF THE HEADTEACHER

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher that all staff and parents are informed about this policy and that it is implemented effectively. It is also the

headteachers' role to ensure that all staff have appropriate support and training so that they can teach effectively with sensitivity and understanding. The headteacher will liaise with external agencies and the LEA regarding the schools' drug education programme and thus ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within its framework. The Headteacher will monitor the policy on a regular basis and report to the Governors on request.

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNORS

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education, and will support the Headteacher in implementing them. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise and consult with the LEA and Health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with National and Local guidelines.

ROLE OF THE PARENTS

We wish to build a positive partnership with the parents of our children and this can only be achieved through mutual trust and co-operation.

We aim to:

- Inform parents about the schools' drug education policy, programme and practice.
- Invite parents to view the materials and resources used to teach drug education.
- Answer parental questions about drug education and where necessary signpost a parent to the relevant support agencies.
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and implementing modifications.
- Inform parents about best practice with regard to current drugs education so that they may support the key messages being given to the children in the school.

THE ROLE OF THE PSHE CO-ORDINATOR

The Co-ordinator will regularly attend LEA meetings and courses. They will keep the Headteacher Governors and staff informed on up to date trends and current good practice.

ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING

Teachers will make assessments on progress in knowledge, understanding and skills. These assessments will inform the teachers planning and future delivery. At set intervals these assessments may be incorporated into a report to parents, and will be communicated to the next class teacher in order to ensure continuity and progression.

MONITORING

Specific monitoring should take place in Science whilst monitoring in PSHE should be both formal and informal, and may be the scrutinising of planning, classroom observation, peer teaching, sampling of work and discussions with the children.

CHILD PROTECTION

If any disclosure occurs during a health-based lesson and concerns are raised, teachers will follow the school's procedure for Child Protection.

Teachers have a duty of care and so any incident or potential incident (e.g. involving drug using parents) must be treated as a Child Protection issue.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Children have rights under the Children's Act 1989 and can thus expect incidents of issues relating to drugs to be treated sensitively. However, no one can give guarantees of confidentiality where the safety and welfare of a child is at risk.

SANCTIONS AND RESPONSES

If any drug related incident occurs then it should be made clear that the school is committed to tackling illegal drug use among young people and to this end will give the appropriate education and support. The school will retain the responsibility for dealing with incidents and take account of individual factors.

INFORMING PARENTS

- In cases of substance-related incidents, the school will inform parents or appropriate responsible adult about the incidence. However, the following points will be taken into consideration:
- Young people involved will be consulted and informed about the home-school contact.
- A guidance procedure will be provided, on accessing external support.
- Develop home-school relationship to support the young person concerned.
- Would it be helpful to have the young person present when parents are told.
- In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know the child well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher. The school and the parents can then work together to support the child involved.

USE OF PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

The school is aware of and follows the LEA guidelines on the administration of prescribed medicines.

MANAGING SPECIFIC SITUATIONS

Safety within school and school premises

- Allocated person to check the grounds regularly.
- All staff to be vigilant for evidence of drug misuse.

If someone reports finding a syringe

- Ask informer to show where or give exact location.
- Inform appropriate authority/or person who has the correct equipment for removing dangerous items.

If a teacher/parent/carer suspects that a child has been in contact with a syringe

- Seek immediate medical advice.
- Reassure parent/carer to keep calm and prevent fear in the child.

If substances are found on the premises

- If a suspicious substance is found and you think that it may be illegal, then it should be treated as such.
- Place substance in sealed envelope with description, location and date (eg one white tablet found in cloakroom) then sign the envelope in the presence of a witness and place it in a secure location.
- Inform drug co-ordinator and LEA for advice and guidance.
- Make a record of action taken.

Responding to information received concerning substance misuse

- Record only facts, not opinions, observations incidents etc.
- Inform drug co-ordinator.
- Seek advice from LEA.

Policy agreed by Governors on	October 2015
Signature of Chair of Governors	<i>Mrs J Sims</i>
Signature of Head Teacher	<i>Miss M Evans</i>
Date to be reviewed	October 2016