

# ST VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY



### Mission Statement

*“We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn  
love and grow together”*

Reviewed: Autumn 2019

To be reviewed: Autumn 2023

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee

Signature:

Chair of Governors

Date ratified: 10<sup>th</sup> December 2019

## **1. Introduction**

St Vincent de Paul School is a place where children should be able to learn about the world in a safe and informed manner.

Our policy on drugs education reflects whole school aims to provide a caring community in which young people, are respected, can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of our school community and will take action to safeguard their well - being.

## **2 Responsibility**

The school subscribes to the code of practice laid down by the Hertfordshire Drug Action Team as stated in 'Preventing Drug Misuse Through Education- a policy and strategy for Hertfordshire.'

The overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with the Headteacher and the Governing Body who will be assisted by the Health and Safety Co-ordinator.

Teachers are responsible for the planning and delivery of an appropriate drug education as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and science curriculum.

All Support Staff should be informed of school policy and be aware of how it could affect any work they may undertake in support of the Class Teacher.

It is fundamental to our school's values and practice that we maintain the principle of sharing the responsibility of education with parents and carers. As usual we strive for effective communication and co-operation in our Home-School-Parish links.

## **3 Implementation**

The purpose of drugs education should be to give pupils the knowledge, skills and attitudes of a healthy life style and to relate these to their own actions.

Our emphasis is to educate our pupils to grow up safely in a society where drugs are available.

We define the term 'drug' as: any substance which affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally and includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

The presence of non-medical drugs on the school premises is unacceptable.

Any queries about the administering of prescribed medicines should be directed to our Office Staff who will activate the correct procedure, as set out in our Staff Handbook.

The School Policy will also be implemented during visits off the premises and on School journeys, field trips and holidays.

#### **4 Aims**

Our young people should be enabled to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.

Our work will be informed by reference to 'Drug Proof': Drug Education Curriculum Guidance for Schools. (DFE 1995) and any current guidelines published by the DFE or LEA.

We should help our pupils to develop a sense of self-awareness and self esteem.

There should be an increase in understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.

In listening to the thoughts, feelings and concerns of our young people we aim to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.

We will help to distinguish between different substances, considering their use, misuse, benefit and harm.

It is vital to counter any inaccurate messages which young people receive about drugs.

We will try to encourage understanding within our community for those who are dependent on medicinal drugs.

With cross-curricular emphasis we will aim to widen knowledge and understanding of the related health, social and legal issues.

Whenever appropriate we should enable children to identify where help and support may be found.

We will aim to develop as a Health Promoting School.

## **5 Objectives**

Appropriate integration of drug education into the curriculum.

To adopt a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.

The development of a fluid teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs.

Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.

Reinforcing the key messages throughout the Foundation Stage, KS1 and KS2 in various situations.

To develop the content and approaches which match the needs of all our pupils.

INSET training and support for staff in the planning and delivery of drug education.

Regular policy review and revision of practice if appropriate.

Recognition that adults are role models for children and being aware of the responsibility that this entails.

Involvement of the whole community: staff, governors, parents, pupils and relevant visitors.

## **6 Teaching Opportunities**

Planned elements of RE and other curriculum subjects.

Assemblies.

Discrete Personal Social and Health Education and 'citizenship' time.

Pastoral time.

Story; literacy hour; circle time.

Occasional planned and negotiated visits from school nurse, police officer and other appropriate people.

Informal curriculum and opportunities for extra curricular activities, including visits and workshops, e.g. Y6 attendance at Crucial Crew.

## **7 Response to possible drug related incidents**

It is important that all aspects of an incident are considered. Each situation will be considered individually and it will be recognised that a variety of responses may be necessary to drug related incidents as recommended

by LEA and national guidance. (Ref. 'The Right Responses - managing and making policy for drug related incidents in schools; SCODA 1999).

If the situation leads to a medical emergency the school emergency aid procedures will be followed immediately.

In the absence of a medical emergency an appropriate response will be considered by the Headteacher or Health and Safety co-ordinator. We will refer to the Hertfordshire guidelines on responding to drug related incidents and in determining the response, the implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. The focus of any response will be the pupil and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.

While staff will wish to be supportive of any pupil who may experience any form of drug misuse, they work within child protection guidelines and must state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. The Headteacher should be informed in such circumstances.

Professional colleagues who may be contacted for support and advice:

The school's Health Advisor.

The school's Education Welfare Officer.

The Local Police Liaison Officer.

The Youth Offending Team.

Local Drug and Alcohol agencies and counselling services.

Our LEA PSHE advisers will always be on hand for advice, support, training and information for resources.

## **8 Monitoring and Review**

The implementation of this policy as an integral part of the teaching and practice within our school will be monitored by the Health and Safety coordinator in accordance with established procedures.

An incident record will be kept and safeguarded by the Headteacher.

This policy will be reviewed by the Headteacher, governors and staff on a regular basis.

## **9 Bibliography**

This policy was informed by, Hertfordshire: Components of a School drugs policy.