



Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery Drug Education Policy September 2014

“At Sacred Heart School we are a loving Christian family who live and learn happily together and grow in the Catholic faith”

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 school nurse.

Further guidance is available from the Hertfordshire County Council Drug Education Guidance document and national guidance.

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.

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. This relates to all activities on school premises and includes tobacco and alcohol. (see No Smoking policy)

Definition

At Sacred Heart 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
- Prescribed medicines e.g. tranquillisers
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, heroin

Our drugs education programme should allow our children to develop skills to enable them to resist offers and to live a drug-free lifestyle in a drug orientated society.

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 help pupils acquire skills in managing the pressures of the youth culture they live in.
- 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 under the Health Education umbrella and the skills taught and the approach taken are mainly the same in that both promote healthy lifestyle. Drug education opportunities include:

- Planned cross-curricular e.g. through science, RE and SEAL work.
- Planned visits from outsiders e.g. ADAD for Y6, school nurse, police
- Assemblies
- Through the use of story, circle time etc

A wide range of teaching approaches will be used and we particularly encourage interactive learning methods and use of the IWB/laptops, which involve children's full participation. Ground rules will be discussed and negotiated when appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognized, safeguarding the interests of the pupil and everyone present.

The work will be regularly monitored and evaluated by all staff and pupils.

Use of Outside Agencies

Where appropriate, outside agencies may be invited to speak to the children. The following advice is to be carried out:

- The teacher will ensure that the activities will complement the programme
- The class teacher and possibly one other member of staff will always be present
- The school will ensure that the agency/individual has a child protection policy/CRB and that it is in accordance with recognized good practice.
- The school will clarify its position on confidentiality
- The teacher will ensure content and resources are appropriate
- Parents will be informed of the use of the agency/individual
- Pupils will be given the opportunity to discuss the session and to give feedback
- Evaluations will be carried out by school and provided to agency

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. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognize that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

The role of Staff

All staff should consider themselves as role models whose behaviour the children are likely to notice and often follow. Staff also have a 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.

The role of the Head teacher

The Head teacher has the ultimate responsibility for ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Head teacher will liaise with external agencies and monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to respond to any drug related incidents. When dealing with these, the head teacher will consider each case individually, taking into account, the guidelines laid down by the DFES/CSF. We will always aim to work as closely as possible with parents and carers to support the child and resolve any difficulties.

The Drug Education Co-ordinator is responsible for ensuring that a good and balanced programme of study is being taught. This will include monitoring and evaluating drug education policy and practice throughout the school. The DEC will liaise with other co-ordinators to identify where other learning experiences contribute to drug education.

The role of Governors

The Governors should have named governor with responsibility for drug education. They should review and develop the drug education policy and programme regularly. 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 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
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school
- Answer any questions parents may have about drugs education their child receives in school

- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

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 drug/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 possible drug ingestion

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

Smoking

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

Alcohol

Occasionally alcohol is allowed on the school premises e.g. PTA function, Christmas/end of term staff functions. On these occasions, alcohol is locked away until it is used.

Communion wine for use during school Masses is kept locked in a cupboard in the Head teacher's office.

Medicines in school

The school follows the "Supporting pupils with special needs-a good practice guide" DFES 1996 and guidelines in "Drugs: Guidance for Schools" DFES 2004.

Monitoring and review

The curriculum committee of the governing body will monitor the drugs education policy on an annual 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 drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.