

POLICY DOCUMENT FOR DRUGS



# DRUGS Education POLICY

**June 2020**

*We show our love for Jesus in all we do and say.  
Celebrate our gifts and our talents  
As we enjoy learning and playing together.  
We try to follow the example of St.Patrick within our school  
Community.*

## **Introduction**

At St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School the term 'drug' is taken to mean any substance, which, when taken, affects the way the mind and body work. This includes medicines, tobacco, alcohol, caffeine, solvents and illegal drugs.

## **The Philosophy of the School**

This school is committed to the health and safety of its children and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. This school sees a programme of life-skills and drug education as being part of the entitlement to appropriate personal, social and health education for all its pupils through the teaching of Science and PSHE. We recognise that all drugs carry the potential for harm. The responsibility of our school is to help reduce the harm caused by drugs. Within this document we will lay down clear and consistent procedures, which promote safety and good management of all drugs. We intend to provide a carefully planned Drug Education Programme for all pupils working closely with the local PCSO's in our community. In developing this policy, the school has considered its legal responsibilities and the needs of pupils, teachers, governors, parents/carers and the local community.

## **The School's Position on Drugs**

This school believes that the possession and use of drugs, other than for valid medical use, in school or during the school day is inappropriate. The drugs considered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises, during the school day, or in any connection with any school event, without the express permission of the Headteacher. These rules and expectations apply to pupils, staff, other adults working in and for the school and parents/carers while on school premises. The use of tobacco and alcohol products is not permitted on school premises during the school day or at other school events, on or off site. Parents/carers are asked to respect and support this practice.

## **Drug Education**

This school provides a Drug Education Curriculum for all pupils as part of the Science Curriculum and through the 'Health and Wellbeing' section of its Personal, Social and Health Education Programme.

Drug education is an important aspect of the curriculum for all schools. It should:

- increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:
  - the short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs
  - the rules and laws relating to drugs
  - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
  - the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
  - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
  
- develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
  - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
  - communicating effectively
  - resisting pressures
  - finding information, help and advice
  - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
  - developing self-awareness and self-esteem
  
- Enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences. This school acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and, in so doing, helps foster positive self-images which can help pupils cope better in situations involving drug use.

## **Confidentiality**

Pupils at this school need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without the fear of being judged or reprimanded. The welfare of pupils will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed.

Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will be subject to the same procedures as for other safeguarding information. The DSL and officers will be informed and help sought if appropriate and in discussion with the pupil involved.

Confidentiality will be maintained beyond key people. When an instance of substance abuse or drug related problem arises, the Head Teacher will inform parents of children involved as soon as possible.

Pupils will be told that their absolute confidentiality cannot be guaranteed but will be reassured that any personal and sensitive information will be treated with respect and will not be reported to anyone more than is necessary.

Reporting procedures are such that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. This involvement will be on a 'need to know', not 'right to know', basis.

Written reports on drug-related incidents will be kept on confidential files (as per our GDPR policy). These procedures apply to school responses to incidents involving both pupils and parents/carers.

## **Drug Incident Management in School**

Any drug, whoever brings them, for whatever purpose, needs to be properly managed in order to safeguard the health and safety of all in the school community.

'In school' is taken to mean on school premises, including building and grounds. The school policy also applies to off-site activities, visits and school trips.

The policy will also relate to pupils' use of the premises and grounds beyond the school day. All pupil medicines must be handed into the school office with written instructions, as outlined in our medical room procedures.

All staff are responsible for ensuring that any personal medication is kept in a secure location away from all pupils and for any long term illnesses the Head Teacher must be informed and a long- term risk assessment may need to be carried out.

## **The Administration and Management of Prescribed Medicines in School**

We believe that the possession and use of drugs, other than for valid medical use in school or during the school day, is inappropriate. The school must be informed in writing of any medicines that a pupil may need during the school day or on the school premises. All medication should be handed in at the School Office.

If medication is required by a pupil during the school day e.g Calpol/ Neurofen this will need to be administered by the parent/carer.

If medication is ongoing eg. Daily ADHD medication, this can be administered by nominated member of staff with written parental consent (Managing Medicines form).

## **The Management of Solvents in School**

A solvent will be determined as any volatile, strong-smelling substance, such as adhesive, aerosols, tippex thinners, nail varnish remover, cleaning agents, corrective fluids, gas lighter fuel, petrol or petrol-based solutions, which may

be inhaled for its intoxication effect. Such substances shall, if possible, be stored in a locked cupboard or in other such areas as is deemed by the teacher to be not easily accessible to pupils. During lessons, materials such as glue will be the responsibility of the class teacher, who will ensure that adequate care is taken in the distribution, use and collection of these materials. Pupils will not be allowed to carry or use aerosol deodorants while under school supervision. Where a deodorant is appropriate, only a roll-on type will be permitted. The school reserves the right to ban any brand of felt-tip pens, glues, etc, which it feels are unsuitable for children.

### **The Role of the Headteacher**

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs education policy and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity. The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school Drugs Education Programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

### **The Role of Governors**

The Governing Body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents/carers about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LEA and health organisation so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

### **The Role of Parents/Carers**

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

- ❖ Inform parents/carers about the school drugs education policy and practice
- ❖ Answer any questions parents/carers may have about the drugs education their child receives in school
- ❖ Take seriously any issue which parents/carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school

- ❖ Encourage parents/carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary
- ❖ Inform parents/carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children from school

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Governing Body will monitor the drugs education policy on an annual basis.