



## Drugs Education Policy

<b>Reviewed</b>	<b>Spring 2016</b>
<b>Next Review</b>	<b>Autumn 2017</b>

*"Learning to make the world a better place"*

## **Context/Introduction**

Here at St John's Angell Town we want to ensure that children develop the characteristics and knowledge needed in order to resist peer and societal pressures to drink excessive amounts of alcohol, smoke which is harmful to the health, or to engage in illegal drug-taking or substance abuse. We want children to recognise peer pressure and develop self-awareness and assertiveness needed to make good and independent choices. Lambeth has high levels of drug and alcohol abuse and addiction which makes it particularly important to make sure our children leave primary school with a good understanding of the subject.

Teaching children about drugs, alcohol and smoking forms part of a larger project within the school to help children to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future. We are aware that though all children have a need for Drugs Education, the needs of some children within the school community will be higher and they will have varying experiences of drug misuse. Teachers need to be mindful of this and use appropriate strategies and resources to support those children. This also highlights the importance of completing a needs assessment before commencing a unit of work on DE to get a sense of the children's current knowledge and ideas about drugs.

We define the term "drug" as any substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances. "Drug education" is about the all of the above drugs and the skills of growing up safely within a society that uses drugs for many different purposes, it does not focus solely on illegal or illegally used substances.

The policy is published on the school website. The policy is introduced to all new staff members during their induction.

### **Aims and objectives**

- to outline the legal and moral responsibilities of the school
- to promote healthy lifestyles
- to safeguard children's safety both now and in the future
- to enable staff to manage a situation if there was an instance of drug use on the school premises
- to ensure children know about the difference between harmful and helpful drugs
- to ensure that children understand the hazards associated with drugs, alcohol and smoking, both mental and physical
- to ensure children understand the pressures they will face as they grow up and develop the necessary personal skills to cope with them
- to empower children to take responsibility for their own actions
- to challenge common stereotypes about the characteristics of somebody who takes or deals drugs
- to promote understanding of children and adults dependent on medical drugs
- to help children to value themselves and others and develop personal social skills such as refusal and decision making
- to help children to understand the possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- to help our pupils to understand where help can be found

## **Moral and Values Framework**

St John's Angell Town is a Christian school and our mission statement is "learning to make the world a better place." We want children to develop an understanding of drugs, alcohol and smoking and understand the nature of addiction without judgement. However we want children to try and develop responsibility for their own choices now and as they grow older.

All adults employed at St John's Angell Town 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 recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

## **Drugs, alcohol and smoking in school**

If needles or syringes are found on school premises they will be placed in a sturdy, secure container. They will be disposed of according to advice from Environmental Health department.

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable. School boundaries include the school premises and grounds, journeys or visits in school time and residential trips. It also includes extended school activities on the school site and activities run by other groups on the school site. The school has procedures in place for the administration of prescribed medicines (see Medicines Policy.). The school does not administer non-prescribed medicines. Non-prescribed medicines must not be brought into school. Alcohol may be available at some events organised by the school parent group, church or events planned by the SMT or governors. Alcohol is not stored on the school site. Under 18 year olds will not be given bottles containing alcohol as a prize.

The school is smoke free and has a non-smoking policy which applies to all visitors to the school. The priority in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

All prescribed class A drugs will be kept in the medical room, securely stored out of children's reach. Unauthorised drugs found in school will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of suspected illegal drugs staff will follow the following procedure: A second adult witness will be present throughout. The sample will be sealed in a plastic bag and details of the time, date and witnesses present will be recorded. The sample will be stored in a secure location such as the school safe with access limited to 2 members of staff. The police will be notified immediately. They will collect the sample and store or dispose of it according to locally agreed protocols. Staff do not have to disclose the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken. Full details of the incident including the police reference number will be recorded. Parents/carers will be informed unless this would put the pupil at risk of harm. We will refer to the Government guidelines regarding drugs education. The implications of any action we take will be carefully considered. The focus of any response will be the pupil not the substance and we will seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider community.

We will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary as recommended by LA and national guidance. It is important that all aspects of an incident are considered. The needs and circumstances of the pupil are paramount. If a child or adult needs medical support staff will seek assistance immediately, contacting an ambulance if necessary. Except in exceptional circumstances we will inform parents/carers at the earliest

opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve difficulties. If this would put the child's safety at risk the concerns will be discussed with the Duty Social Worker (Lambeth). All incidents are recorded and records are stored securely in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. All notes about an incident should include the time, date, place and people present. The Local Authority will be notified of any drug related incident.

### **Working in partnership with the police**

The school will work closely with the police if there is a drug related incident. The school will consult the police about any concerns about illegal drug use within the local community. The police will be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs. Parents/carers under the influence of drugs or alcohol All visitors to school including parents should come into school through the school office. Office will refuse entry to a parent/carer they feel is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and may cause a danger to themselves or others. If staff feel a parent/carer is under the influence of drugs or alcohol and are concerned about their own or others safety the police will be called.

### **Referral and external support**

The school will refer pupils to other external agencies such as the school nurse, when appropriate. When a child is at risk of suffering significant harm the school will follow its child protection procedures.

### **School staff**

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the Lambeth policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

### **Teaching Drugs Education Curriculum, including smoking**

The school follows the Christopher Winter Teach with Confidence scheme for teaching Drugs Education. From Year 1 children will learn about health and personal safety with a focus on medicines and substances found in most homes. Years 3 and 4 cover smoking and alcohol. This includes understanding why people use these legal drugs, the effects they have on our bodies and how to resist use. From Year 5 onwards the children will focus on legal and illegal substances, with an emphasis on the drugs most commonly used by early teenagers. Lessons are designed to be adapted depending on the degree of knowledge each class has about drugs. All schemes of work include a focus on recognising unsafe and risky situations and developing the skills to ask for help.

#### **Year One: Medicines and People Who Help Us**

- Staying healthy
- Medicines
- Who gives us medicines?

#### **Year Two: Keeping Safe**

- Risk
- Hazardous substances
- Safety rules

### **Year Three: Smoking**

- Why people smoke
- Physical effects of smoking
- Smoking and society

### **Year Four: Alcohol**

- Effects of alcohol
- Alcohol and risk
- Limits to drinking alcohol

### **Year Five: Legal and Illegal Drugs**

- Legal and illegal drugs
- Attitudes to drugs
- Peer pressure

### **Year Six: Preventing Early Use**

- Cannabis
- VSA and early help
- Help, advise and support

### **Child Protection / Confidentiality**

Teachers need to be aware that effective Drugs Education, which brings an understanding of what is and is not acceptable in the eyes of the law, may lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. The staff member will inform the Head Teacher /Designated Child Protection person in line with the LEA procedures for child protection. A member of staff cannot promise confidentiality if concerns exist.

### **Links with other policies**

This policy is linked with the following policies:

PSHE & Citizenship  
Circle Time  
Child Protection  
Confidentiality  
Behaviour  
Anti Bullying  
Cross Phase eg. Key Stage 3  
Safeguarding

### **Dealing with difficult questions**

Ground rules are essential to provide an agreed structure to answering sensitive or difficult questions. This framework facilitates the use of an anonymous question box as a distancing technique. Teachers will endeavour to answer questions as honestly as possible but if faced with a question they do not feel comfortable answering within the classroom, provision would be made to meet the individual child's needs.

### **Children with special needs**

Teaching and resources will be differentiated as appropriate to address the needs of these children in order for them to have full access to the content of sex and relationship education.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Monitoring is the responsibility of the head teacher, named governor and PSHE Lead with responsibility for the area of DE. The named governor for SRE is Rev Rosemarie Mallett (Chair of Governors). The subject is monitored and evaluated by the PSHE coordinator throughout the year through guiding teachers and observing practice in the classroom. As a result of this process changes will be made to the DE education programme as appropriate. The school will assess the effectiveness of the aims, content and methods in promoting students' learning by lesson observation, sampling teachers planning, questionnaires to teachers and children and feedback from parents. The effectiveness of the DE programme will be evaluated by assessing children's learning and implementing change if required.

This policy document will be placed on the school website and will be reviewed every two years.

### **Responsibilities for Staff and Governors**

The PSHE leader is responsible for:

- Writing and updating the DE policy and scheme of work in light of any initiatives, curriculum changes and monitoring the development of the subject throughout the school.
- Guiding and supporting teachers in this subject, including training.
- Co-ordinating external agency support for DE.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the planned and delivered curriculum for DE.
- Co-ordinating classroom practices and guidelines across the curriculum and ensuring the development of subject skills.
- Auditing and monitoring resources throughout the school to ensure that there are age sufficient and age appropriate resources for effective teaching and learning.

The Headteacher is responsible for:

- ensuring that the aims of this policy are followed.

The Governing Body is responsible for:

- Authorising the DE policy and any subsequent reviews of this policy, and ensuring that the terms of this policy are followed.

All Staff members are responsible for:

- Following the terms and ethos of this policy.

Agreed by Governors on: Autumn 2015

Signed by:

Designation: Chair of Governors Next

Review Date Autumn 2017