



St Gregory's, St Ethelbert's and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

JOINT DRUGS POLICY

"I serve Jesus with my body, heart, mind and soul."

Serviam means 'I serve'. Jesus Christ has taught us that it is more blessed to serve than to be served. At St Ethelbert's school, following our Catholic faith, we serve the whole person – mind, heart, body and soul.

Body – because we care for our wellbeing, our parish neighbourhood and our environment.

Heart – because we teach love and respect for all.

Mind – because we believe in excellent education.

Soul – because we learn to pray and become closer to God as his children.

Introduction

This policy outlines the school's principles which underpin our drug education and our management of drug incidents. The word 'drug' refers to any substance people take to change the way they think, feel and behave.

This includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Aims

The school has a role in effective drug prevention and education and to ensure it is appropriate to pupils', staff and parent and carers' needs.

The school will ensure that a supportive approach is taken on the issue of drugs, it is a whole-school approach and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will receive training to be confident and skilled to teach drug education. Pupils will receive up to date, relevant and accurate information and feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident to ask for help. The school will provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs whilst promoting a healthy lifestyle.

Curriculum Content

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education-

- Key Stage 1, 5-7 year olds should be taught about the role of drugs as medicines
- Key Stage 2, 7-11 year olds should be taught that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects
- Informing pupils about the effects and risks of drug taking

- Enabling pupils to explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug use
- Teaching pupils skills to manage risky situations and resist pressure from peers / others

(ii) PSHE reflects other discretionary topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills: this will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

It will be teachers who will teach drug education. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school will actively cooperate with agencies such as the LEA, police, health and drug agencies where appropriate.

Teaching Strategies

- Discussion and debate
- Role-play
- Circle Time
- ICT

Monitoring and Evaluation

The PSHE Leader is responsible for overseeing the planning and coordination of drug education throughout the school. Monitoring will be by looking at planning, pupils' work, observing lessons and pupil and parental / carer feedback.

Drug Incident Management

The school boundaries are defined as any area where a pupil is whilst under the care of the school.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises then information will be passed to the police.

An incident is :

- A pupil / parent / carer / staff is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A pupil / parent / carer / staff is in possession of drugs or related paraphernalia
- A pupil demonstrates an inappropriate level of knowledge
- A pupil discloses

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with.
- In the unlikely case of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the individual and a written record taken. In the unlikely event that a pupil was involved parents/carers will be informed

by the head teacher as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought.

- If a child admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the head teacher in consultation with governors and staff who know the child well
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with any incident.
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Education Adviser and LEA Communication Officer-Education

All staff, parents/carers will be reminded of this policy, and its procedures, on a regular basis.

In the event of any drug related incident, the head teacher will be immediately informed and assess the procedures to take.

All incidents will be fully recorded on an Incident Reporting form which is kept in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

A pupil appears to be under the influence or drink:

- the first consideration is given to medical assistance
- his/her parents are contacted and asked to collect their child from school. (if
- the incident should be discussed with the child and parents and then Monitored. Child Protection procedures should be followed where Necessary.

A pupil is found in possession of unauthorised drugs:

- the drugs should be removed from the pupil, Health and Safety regulations into consideration. Gloves should always be worn
- the Police Youth Crime Reduction Officer (YCRO) should be contacted. In 'emergency' situations police assistance will be summoned instead

A pupil is suspected of being in possession of unauthorised drugs:

- the child should be questioned about the possession of unauthorised drugs and asked to hand over the drugs necessary
- it is **not** legal for school staff to conduct a personal search of the pupil
- if there is good reason to believe the pupil is likely to cause harm to Him/her self or others a search may be conducted by a senior member of staff

In the presence of a witness

- it is wise not to search the pupil's private property unless you have a reason to believe there is a likelihood of harm to others
- the police YCRO should be contacted if any unauthorised drugs are Found

A pupil demonstrates an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs or discloses that a family member or friend is misusing drugs:

- teachers must not guarantee confidentiality and when a pupil discloses

Information that indicates he or she is at risk, the information must be Passed immediately to The Head Teacher and child protection Procedures followed where necessary

Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises:

- . it is important to assess the risk of removal of any found objects when Considering what action to be taken
- . the area where the objects is found must be safeguarded to protect Others from injury
- . in the event of discovering a syringe then the surrounding area must Also be checked. Do not comb grass by hand
- . the incident must be recorded in the health & safety incident book

A parent/carer is under the influence of drugs on school premises:

- . the teacher has to decide whether the child's welfare is at risk if they Are discharged to parent/carer
- . if it is decided that the child is at risk and there are repeated incidents the Child protection procedures need to be followed

A staff member is under influence of drugs whilst children are in their care

- . teachers have a duty of care to pupil's entrusted to the school, including When on school trips
- . a member of staff may be deemed unfit to work if he or she poses a risk or Potential risk to the health and safety of pupil's or colleagues

Follow – up procedures;

When a child has been involved in a drug incident, then the Head Teacher Will decide whether a further response needs to be taken This may in Include:

- referral to school counsellor
- seeking help from specialist agencies
- facilitating access to activities of interest to them
- seeking advise from the YCRO over the appropriate action to take
- fixed term or permanent exclusion – this will only be considered as a last resort when the incident is extremely serious or part of a pattern of persistent behaviour.

This policy should be used in conjunction with a range of other school policies, Including those on behaviour, health and safety, medicines, child protection, PSHE and confidentiality.

Sources of Help

1. Key documents which have informed this policy outline:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools, DfES/0092/2004
www.dfes.gov.uk/drugsguidance
- School Drug Policy Review Process - Blueprint 2004
www.drugeducationforum.co.uk
- Creating A Drug Policy For Your School – Guidelines on the Creation and Maintenance of a Drug Policy – Devon County council,
www.devon.gov.uk/dcs/perseduc/index.html

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