

# St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary School

## Drug Policy

At St John's Primary School Drug Education is an integral part of PSHE. We are committed to the health and safety of the school community and will take necessary action to safeguard its well-being. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of our children and consequently ensure that they are offered the opportunity to develop health-related skills as well as a sound knowledge base.

The term "drug" in this policy is understood to mean any substance that can be used to change a person's behaviour.

Legal drugs and substances are tobacco, alcohol, prescribed medicines, over-the-counter medicines and solvents.

Illegal drugs are any that come into the classes A-C as defined by the Home Office. These take a number of forms and may not be within the experience of adults in the school community so common sense must prevail.

### **Aims**

- To give the pupils appropriate and accurate information about legal drugs and raise their awareness of illegal substances
- To develop the pupils understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of all drugs
- To develop communication skills and strategies to cope with drug-related incidents
- To enable pupils to recognise peer pressure and to develop strategies to resist it
- To enable pupils to develop responsible behaviour and respect for others
- To promote a healthy lifestyle
- To raise awareness of the law on drug misuse

### **Objectives**

We will

- Provide appropriate and accurate information on drugs
- Develop pupil's understanding of implications and possible consequences of drug misuse
- Develop communication skills and strategies to cope with drug-related incidents
- Enable pupils to recognise peer pressure and to develop strategies to resist in situations they may find themselves
- Raise awareness of the law on drug misuse
- Enable pupils to develop responsible behaviour and respect for others
- Promote the advantages of a healthy lifestyle

## **Drug Education**

St John's School has a drug education programme across Early Years and Key Stages 1 and 2. By the term "drug" we are not just looking at illegal substances but more importantly substances that are legal but can be misused. The programme aims to provide pupils with accurate knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed decisions about substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, prescribed medicines and over-the-counter medicines. Drug education is seen as a whole school issue and all staff have a part to play.

Drug education begins in Early Years with substances that are familiar to children because they are found at home but could be potentially harmful, eg. cleaning products or tablets, and is then built upon in each year as appropriate. A detailed progression of knowledge and skills will be found on the Health Education Grid and Sex and Relationships Education Grid. The whole PSE programme is enshrined in the Education for Citizenship and Personal Relationships Policy.

Drug Education is cross-curricular coming within Science, (Healthy Living and drugs as medicines), RE teaching as well as on incidental occasions for example in Literacy.

St John's school is supported in its Drug Education by the Getting It Right police officer who works with children to build their skills as part of a programme that is planned at the beginning of each year.

Getting It Right addresses three areas

- Crime reduction
- Keeping safe
- **Substance use and misuse**

## **Equal Opportunities**

Every member of the community has equal rights to access drug education. Special Educational Needs may require a child to have additional support to gain most benefit from the skills being developed. If English is an additional language for children and understanding difficult, we will do our best to get support in the mother tongue or at least additional adult support to improve access to the information and skill-building. Level of detail and approach will be matched to the ability of the child.

## **PROCEDURES FOR MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

St John's is a smoke free environment at all times. Staff, parents or visitors (including contractors) must leave the school site if they wish to smoke.

St John's is an alcohol-free environment when there are children on site.

The staff and Governors of St John's do not condone the use of illegal drugs or the misuse of legal substances.

## **Misuse of legal substances**

### **Alcohol**

- If a child was found to be affected by alcohol and still in possession it should be confiscated and a senior member of staff informed.
- The parents should be informed.
- A suitable programme of support offered in or outside class involving outside agencies if necessary.

If a member of staff was found to be affected by alcohol the head teacher or senior member of staff should be informed.

If a parent was found to be affected by alcohol steps should be taken by the head teacher or senior member of staff to ensure the safety of their child.

### **Tobacco**

- If a child was found in possession of tobacco should have it confiscated whether they are using it or not and a senior member of staff informed.
- The parents should be informed.
- A suitable programme of support offered in or outside class involving outside agencies if necessary.

Adults smoking on site should have No Smoking notices drawn to their attention and asked to leave if they wish to continue.

### **Prescribed medicines**

These are only to be used on the school site with the written consent of the parents in line with the policy for administering medicines. Over-the-counter medicines that are not prescribed must not be brought into school and will be confiscated and returned to the child at the end of the day with a reminder to the parent.

### **Solvents**

Solvents are used in school by teachers, only in a well-ventilated place. They may take the form of spirit-based pens, aerosol-spray paint, or adhesives.

- Anyone who has one of these substances in their possession and is misusing or attempting to misuse it will have it confiscated and a senior member of staff informed.
- The parents will be informed
- A suitable programme of support will be offered in or out of class as appropriate.

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act:

to be in possession of a controlled drug. It is a defence to the offence, that knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, a person takes possession of the drug in order to prevent another from committing an offence and that as soon as possible steps were taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to police custody.

Discovery of an illegal substance on the school site:

If the substance is found in a place remove it in the presence of a witness.  
If the substance is found on a pupil (or other), retrieve it in the presence of a witness.

**The Following procedure should be adhered to at all times:**

- Remove substance and record the time, place and circumstances that it came into your possession.
- Record its size and appearance. (Do not investigate the nature of the substance).
- Have the record countersigned by the witness.
- **Immediately** take the substance to the head teacher.
- In the presence of the head teacher place the substance in a labelled, sealed container, all present should sign and date the label.
- A report of the incident should be completed, detailing time, date and circumstances.
- The head teacher will contact the police for the substance to be removed and any action to be taken in the case of an adult.
- The head teacher will inform the parents of a child who has been found in possession of an illegal substance.

Discovery of equipment associated with substance misuse, especially needles and syringes, must be handled by adults, wearing gloves, with the utmost care. The head teacher will ensure the materials are placed in a secure container for collection by the appropriate services.

**Indications that a pupil may be involved in misuse of drugs**

Where a child is intoxicated, "high", in a state of physical collapse, has difficulty breathing or is unconscious, staff/adults should call on a trained first-aider and then professional help.

Warning signs that a pupil may be involved in the drug culture:

- Decline in performance
- Change in personality
- Reports by parents of more time spent out of the home
- Excessive spending/borrowing of money
- Stealing money or goods

- Change for worse in appearance
- Excessive tiredness
- Lack of appetite
- Heavy use of scent/mouthwash
- Sunglasses at inappropriate times

Signs of group involvement:

- Regular absence on the same day
- Rumours about them
- Talking to strangers near school
- Stealing
- Use of drug culture slang
- Exchanging goods for money
- Association with older groups

Objects that may be associated with substance misuse

- Foil containers discoloured by heat
- Metal tins
- Spoons
- Pillboxes
- Small twists of paper
- Straws
- Sugar lumps
- Syringes and needles
- Cigarettes /roll-ups/lighters/matches
- Plastic bags/butane gas containers
- Cardboard and other tubes

The term school site or in school is understood to mean travelling to and from school, onsite, any group of staff and pupils representing the school off-site on a school trip, residential visit or off-site activity, consequently participants are expected to behave according to the same guidelines.

The Drugs policy compliments the Science, Behaviour and Education for Citizenship and Personal Relationships Policies. The progression of Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes is detailed in the Drug Education Grid for Key Stages 1 and 2.

As a school St John's is committed to staff development and Drug Related Issues aspects are part of this so as opportunities arise the PSE manager attends.

A O'Neill  
June 2005