

# St Margaret's CE Primary School

## Drug Education Policy

### Section One – Drug Education in the Curriculum

Aim of Drug Education is:

- To provide opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs.
- To appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle relating this to their own and others' actions.

The Importance of Drug Education

Drug education is an important aspect of the curriculum because it should:

- Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:
  - the short and long term effects and risks of drug-taking.
  - the rules and laws relating to use of 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.
- Improve pupils' awareness of social influences

**Key Objectives of Drug Education are:**

- To enhance young people's decision-making skills.
- To help young people distinguish between different drug substances, including medicines and consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To provide young people with accurate information.
- To create a climate in which a young person feels comfortable to discuss his/her or the family's drug use.
- To raise a young person's self-esteem.

Terminology

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.”

The terms “drugs” and “drug education” refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- Ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as “poppers”)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

## Organisation of Drug Education

Drug education is provided within the framework/programme of PSHCE where issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility can be addressed and where drug prevention is but one component. Drug education is also provided within the statutory science curriculum.

## Teaching and Learning

A variety of teaching and learning methods are used as appropriate to the topic and needs of the pupils e.g. thought showers, mind mapping, circle time, discussion, formal debate, group work and role play.

This will enable pupils to:

- Take and share responsibility.
- Feel positive about themselves.
- Participate.
- Make choices and decisions.
- Meet, talk and work with people.
- Develop relationships.
- Consider social and moral dilemmas.
- Find information and advice.
- Prepare for a change.

## Assessment, Monitoring and Evaluation

Assessment will identify:

- The knowledge and understanding the pupil has gained.
- The skills the pupil has developed and put into practice.
- How the pupil's feelings and attitudes have been influenced.

Assessment will include:

- The involvement of pupils in reviewing and reflecting on their progress and understanding how they can improve their own learning as well as what they know, understand and can do.

## **Section Two – Our School’s Stance Towards Substance Misuse**

### **Management of Drugs in School**

It is vital that the school sends a clear message that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs is unacceptable.

#### **Tobacco**

The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the building and school grounds. This applies to employees, pupils, parents and visitors.

#### **Alcohol**

The use of alcohol on school premises during the working day is prohibited.

#### **Solvents**

These can also lend themselves to misuse and are therefore carefully stored and managed. Correcting fluid is not allowed in school, except for staff use. Aerosol sprays are not permitted in school, except for use by staff in designated areas, e.g. art.

#### **Medicines**

It is understood that some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for a medical condition. Information can be found in the Administration of Medicines Policy and First Aid Policy

#### **School Visits (Day and Residential)**

The school’s policy on drugs applies to all school visits.

#### **Responding to Drug-Related Incidents**

For any drug-related incident, the utmost priority should be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning help. The school will consider each drug incident individually and recognises that, in order to deal with the incident, a variety of responses will be necessary. The school will consider the implications of any action taken and of those involved. The Headteacher should be informed of any drug-related incident and, in turn, report this to the Governing Body.

#### **What Constitutes a Drug-Related Incident?**

It could include any or a combination of the following:

- Emergencies.
- Intoxication.
- Possession or discovery of drug-associated paraphernalia.
- Possession with intent to supply.
- Disclosure.
- Adult under the influence of an unauthorised drug.

#### **Required Procedure of each Category of Incident**

The procedure for incidents will be:

- To make sure the individuals are safe and looked after by a member of the first aid team.
- To summon help from the emergency services as necessary.
- To inform Headteacher.
- To stay with the individuals involved until the arrival of the emergency services.
- To inform parents/next of kin.
- To document the incident accurately.

#### **Strategies for Responding Positively to the Identified Needs of those Involved**

When responding to a drug related incident the main priority at all times should be the welfare and safety of the individuals involved. The Headteacher in collaboration with the senior management team will then

decide if outside agencies, such as the police and social services, should be involved in following up the incident.

#### Reporting Incidents

A full record of every incident will be made. Storage of the information will be kept securely in the school office. Notes should include the time, date, place and people present as well as what was said (always with a witness).

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