

ST JAMES' RC PRIMARY SCHOOL DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

This policy has the School's Motto at its heart.

**Faith in action,
Growing together,
Walking in the footsteps of Christ**

The member of staff responsible for drug related issues is the Headteacher.

Context

This policy is developed as part of the whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions.

We are committed to the health and safety of our community and will act to safeguard their well-being. We will actively discourage the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines. We acknowledge the importance of our pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to enable pupils needing support to come forward. It is our aim to develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their uses and effects. Drug education at St James' aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision-making skills.

The drug policy applies to the school and grounds and includes pupils, staff, governors, parents and visitors to the school. It also includes all pupils and staff/helpers on school trips.

Purpose

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school;
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, pupils, governors, parents and the wider community;
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme;
- Enable staff to manage any drug related incidents on the premises;
- Ensure that the response to drug-related incidents complements the approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school;
- Provide a basis for evaluating the school drug education programme and management of drug-related incidents.

Definition of 'drugs'

We define a drug as a substance that, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. The term 'drugs' includes:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances which can be inhaled
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

Drug Education

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. The school's drug education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to take responsibility for making informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Drug education aims to:

- promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health;
- enable pupils to make healthy informed choices;
- foster and develop self-esteem;
- provide accurate information;
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- practise the skills necessary to deal with a drug offer situation;
- widen understanding about health and social issues;
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

Drug education will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse;
- practise decision making skills;
- become aware of peer pressure;
- develop assertiveness skills;
- consider the consequences of risk taking;
- learn how to access sources of help and information;
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

Drug education will be fulfilled through the teaching of the Science, RHE and PE and through developing the whole school ethos. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

Key Stage 1 children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

Knowledge and Understanding

- The school's policy relating to medicine;
- Provide basic information about how the body works and ways of looking after the body;
- The role medicines play, both prescribed and over the counter, in promoting health and reasons people use them;
- That all drugs can be harmful if not used correctly;
- Simple safety rules about medicines and other substances used in the home;
- The general effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body and behaviour;
- People who are involved with medicines such as health professionals, pharmacists, shop keepers;
- People who can help children when they have questions of concerns.

Skills

- Communicating feelings such as concern about illness and taking medicines;
- Following simple instructions;
- Knowing when and how to get help from adults.

Attitudes

- Which value their own body and recognise its uniqueness
- Towards medicines, health professionals and hospitals;
- Towards the use of alcohol and cigarettes;
- Consider their responses to media and advertising presentations of medicines, alcohol and smoking.

Key Stage 2 children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

Knowledge and understanding

- School policies relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs;
- More detailed information about the body, how it works and how to take care of it;
- Different types of medicines, both prescribed and over the counter, legal and illegal drugs;
- People who can help children when they have questions or concerns;
- Dangers from handling discarded syringes and needles.

Skills

- Identifying risks;
- Coping with peer influences;
- Communicating with others;
- Decision making;
- Giving and getting help;
- Safety procedures when using medicines.

Attitudes

- Valuing oneself and other people;
- Taking responsibility for decisions and actions;
- Considering social and moral dilemmas.

Organisation of drugs education

All class teachers are responsible for teaching the relevant sections of the Science, RHE and PE curriculum and for developing the school ethos within their class.

Outside agencies

The delivery of drug education is primarily given by the class teacher however use can be made of outside agencies. Outside agencies will be asked to adhere to the school policy. The class teacher will always be present when visitors are working with the pupils.

Methodology and Resources

Drug education should help pupils make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle, and they should be involved in active learning experiences. A wide range of teaching methods will be used including discussions, role-play and other active, creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues.

Staff Support and Training

Staff will access appropriate training courses and will cascade information. Staff training will be built into the school development improvement plan.

Assessment and monitoring

Assessment of the Science and PE elements of drugs education will be assessed according to the National Curriculum. Assessment of RHE elements will be by teacher assessment, following observation of pupils' contributions in discussion, role-play in the RHE curriculum etc. Pupils will be encouraged to undertake self-assessment and peer-group assessment, reflecting on what they have learnt.

Management of drugs at school

If a drug-related incident occurs staff should:

- Inform Head Teacher;
- Inform parent providing this does not place child at risk;
- Legal substances can be returned to parent or disposed of safely;
- If disclosure is made by/about a child or parent, advice or information should be offered and there will be an assessment as to whether further action is necessary. Identify the needs of those involved in any incident and decide on an appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other agency. Provide pupil and parent with access to further forms of support.
- Seek outside support if necessary e.g. LA, DSL, police
- In the case of illegitimate sale or use of legal or illegal drugs, the Head teacher will decide whether to inform the police.
- All decisions and actions should be recorded.
- Permanent exclusion of a pupil is seen as a last resort.

In the extremely unlikely event of a drug related incident the following procedures should be followed:

- Ascertain if there is any medical emergency, and call ambulance and follow First Aid procedures if necessary;
- Remove drug/paraphernalia using gloves and place in a secure container;
- Liaise with LA on safe disposal of matter such as needles;
- Temporarily store drug/paraphernalia in a secure place.

Police involvement

Police should be involved in any incident involving the sale or use of illegal drugs, although there is no legal obligation to give a pupil's name. The Head teacher will make the decision on the need to involve the police. Incidents where a parent is behaving under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be judged on the circumstances and the Head teacher will decide whether the police should be called.

The needs of pupils

Class teachers and others involved in the care of children should be aware of the pastoral needs of children affected by drug-related issues. Concerns should be raised with the Head teacher and appropriate support structures activated.

Confidentiality

Staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However, requests for confidentiality can be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection;
- Co-operating with a police investigation;
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information. It should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes. Where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

Involvement of parents

In the event of any incident involving the misuse of any legal or illegal drug on school premises, the Head teacher will take the decision as to whether parents should be informed, and how they will be involved in dealing with the incident.

Related Policies

- Medicines Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Science Policy
- PE Policy
- RHE Policy
- Health Policy

Monitoring and Evaluation

This policy will be updated in line with any new developments in the school and/or any new government guidance.

It was last reviewed in: summer 2023

It will next be reviewed in: summer 2026

This statement of policy was approved by the Governing Body at their meeting on:-

Date: _____

Signed:

_____ (Chairperson)

_____ (Head teacher)