

Drug Education Policy

St Mary's CE School, Kirkby Lonsdale

Approved by:

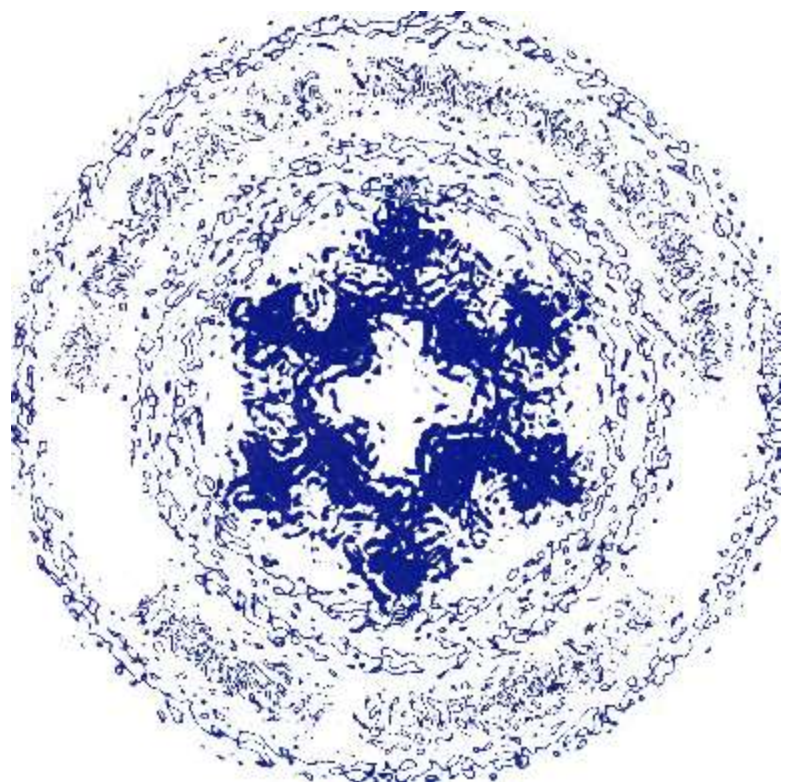
Name: J Gill

Position:

Chair of Governors

Signed: 

Date of policy: March 2024





Introduction

This policy outlines the teaching, organisation and management of drug education taught and learnt at St Mary’s CE School, Kirkby Lonsdale.

The policy has been drawn up as a result of staff discussion and its implementation is the responsibility of all teaching staff. The responsibility for monitoring and review rests with the PHSE subject leader [Emily Hutchinson](#).

Context

Based on ONS Data <https://tinyurl.com/2p94a58z>.

we are mindful that drug use can be linked to income levels, gender, well being, age, life style factors eg, social life and nightclub attendance, alcohol consumption, social contexts and various other factors.

Figures show in Cumbria 423 concerns about child-related alcohol misuse and 727 cases relating to drug abuse were identified during assessments of children in need between 2017-18 and 2020-21.

County lines is a growing problem in the UK. Gangs are exploiting vulnerable young people, some just 12 years old, to carry drugs and sell them to other parts of the country. County Line arrests data shows geographically, that our catchment area is not without links to the effects of county line activity. (<https://tinyurl.com/2cpkj54p>)



The main purposes of this policy are:

- That we recognise that an approach to drugs education is not in isolation and is part of a wider umbrella of support, including, family support, well-being, personal support eg counselling and group therapy, family communication and work with agencies to support our children and families.
- To understand that Drug Education contributes to children's health and safety in accordance with the principles of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda. An understanding of drugs, enables children to make informed decisions about their lifestyle.
- To ensure that all pupils have access to consistent, clear and thoroughly planned approaches to education that is appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils. This document serves to inform the parents and community of procedures used at St. Mary's.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies; PSHE and Citizenship, Health and Safety, Behaviour, Safeguarding and Administration of Medicines.

Definitions.

For the purpose of this policy 'drugs' and 'substances' refer to all drugs. They are defined as:

- all legal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents/volatile substances (those giving off gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- all medicines whether over-the-counter or prescription
- illegal drugs whose use may have harmful effects on the body and new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001
- all substances dangerous to health, e.g. cleaning fluids

Policy justification

All schools have an up to date policy which is part of being a healthy school.

Although it is highly unlikely that illegal drugs will be in our primary school, we believe that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and recognise that drug use and misuse can have a serious effect on health, well-being and academic achievement. We therefore have a crucial role to play in drug prevention and education.

Primary aged children need to be protected from the harm that drugs can cause and it is our responsibility to give them the knowledge and skills to be able to be healthy and keep safe.

We take a positive and proactive approach to the issue of drugs and this policy aims to:

- Give a clear view on the use of drugs in school.
 - Provide information so that everyone is clear about the procedures should an incident occur
 - Give information about what is taught, how it is taught
 - Give guidance to teachers, support staff and visitors about drug education
- . Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.

Approach to tackling Drugs

As part of being a healthy school we take a whole school approach to drugs through

- A planned drug education programme through PSHE and citizenship informed by pupils, staff and parent's views, as well as the science curriculum.
- Carefully considered responses to drug-related incidents informed and supported by the views of the whole school community
- Clear rules and sanctions related to drugs
- Access to specialist support and advice, if needed
- Providing training and support for staff

Drugs Education

Aims of drug education

To give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and medicines

To achieve this, our drug education programme will help pupils:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks and dangers of drugs and correct myths and misunderstandings
- Develop skills to make informed decisions, including communication, self-awareness, negotiation, finding information, help and advice, helping others and managing situations involving drugs
- Develop skills to manage situations involving drugs including assessing and avoiding risks, assertiveness and refusal skills and helping others
- Explore their own and other peoples' attitudes to drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and dispelling myths and exploring media and social influences

Where is it taught in the curriculum?

Teaching about drugs, alcohol and tobacco is taught through PSHE and citizenship and in Science where it is required in the National Curriculum.

The Foundation Stage:

The EYFS Early Learning Goals for Personal Social and Emotional Development & Physical Development include:

- PSED: Self-confidence, esteem, control and care, making relationships, behaviour and community.
- Physical Development: Health and body awareness, some understanding of what it means to keep our bodies healthy and ways to keep safe.

In KS1 children will be taught:

- What substances can be harmful if not used properly
- **That all medicines are drugs but not all drugs are medicines.**
- The places that are safe and where to get help
- People in the community who can help them
- The rules for keeping safe at home and at school
- That some people need drugs to live a normal life and that some drugs can prevent the development of diseases (e.g. immunisation)

KS2 Children will be taught:

- About the range of legal drugs encountered in everyday life
- About the effects of legal drugs and any associated risks that they may entail (e.g. alcohol consumption, tobacco and prescription drugs).
- To think about what boundaries are appropriate in friendships and the risks & impacts that peer pressure may have on the consumption of a 'drug'.
- Resist pressure to take drugs and to be able to make safe decisions.

Our curriculum ensures that we are covering both the statutory requirement in science to teach Year 6 to recognise the impact of drugs on the way their bodies function and the non-statutory science guidance to teach Year 6 how some drugs and other substances can be harmful to the human body and the relationship between diet, exercise, drugs, lifestyle and health.

The attached scheme of work shows what is taught in each Year group. Objectives and key learning intentions are set for each lesson, and on medium term plans. Drug education focuses on knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes and the teaching programme ensures that there

How it is taught (including involving outside contributors)

A wide range of active teaching methods are used that enable pupils to learn skills to be safe and healthy, discuss their views, explore their own and other peoples' attitudes and values about drugs, as well as learn key information about the effects and risks of drugs and practice skills to stay safe if involved in a drug-related situation. Such activities include role play, discussions, debates, case studies, quizzes, research and games. Pupils work individually, in pairs, in small groups and with the whole class, mixing up so that they experience working with lots of different pupils in the class, as well as in friendship groups.

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another as well as ensuring that pupils and teachers do not disclose personal information.

Drug education is taught by the class teacher and sometimes involves the school nurse or other professionals.

Management of drugs

School's view about the use of drugs

This school does not permit the possession, use or supply of any illegal or legal drug (unless authorized legal drug), which takes place within the school boundaries. This covers; on or near the school premises, within the school day and during term time, on school visits, school journeys and at school social events.

These rules apply equally to staff, pupils, parents and carers, governors and those working and visiting the school.

Management of authorised legal drugs

This school has agreed that there are circumstances, when some legal drugs are authorised for use in school. These are prescribed medicines, hazardous chemicals (and solvents) and alcohol.

(i) Medicines

In most cases, staff do not administer medicines at school to pupils unless it would be detrimental to health or attendance not to administer and only with parental written consent. Details about managing medicines can be found in our policy on supporting pupils with medical needs. The decision to allow pupils to self administer medicines rests with the Headteacher.

Schools are allowed to keep a salbutamol inhaler for use in emergencies. It is only for children who have written parental consent, who have been diagnosed with asthma and prescribed an inhaler or who have been prescribed an inhaler as reliever medication. ***Please see our school protocol for using the emergency inhaler as part of our supporting pupils with medical conditions policy.***

Asthma inhalers, held in school with written parental consent, are kept secure with safe and easy access for school staff authorised to administer. Children's personal inhalers are taken on all off-site visits and held by the accompanying school staff.

Staff are aware of any serious medical conditions which affect pupils in their class.

The School Nurse will be informed of any children attending the school with medical conditions. Advice will be sought on ensuring they have an appropriate care plan and that school staff are trained to administer any medication required for the day to day management of their condition in school or during a medical emergency.

ii) Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals eg for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy

In the event of a child or adult whom is required to use medical sharps to address the management of their health condition (e.g. insulin or gluco blood testing) a medical sharps disposal bin will be provided. Advice will be sought from the School Nurse regarding the management of the sharps and sharps bin on the school site.

iii) Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parent's events and staff social events.

SMOKING POLICY

We are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school. Smoke free signage is prominent around our school grounds.

We display information about giving up smoking on displays around the school and on parent and staff notice boards.

E-cigarettes (sometimes known as nicotine vaporisers)

Although e-cigarettes are not covered by smoking legislation we are not allowing the use of e-cigarettes by pupils, staff, parents, contractors or visitors on the school premises and strongly discourage parents using them when collecting their children from school.

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Management of Drugs related incidents.

Definition of a drug-related incident

In this school, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorised and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries.

Drug related incidents in a primary school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

Pupils smoking cigarettes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes at a local shop, the school staff finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking in the area.

School responses to drug-related incidents

In all drug-related incidents the following principles will apply:

- The head teacher and deputy will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole

- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be used in the most serious cases and as a final resort.
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair of Governors.

Possible responses might be:

(i) Support and counselling

If a pupil has a concern about drugs or has been involved in a drug related incident or is themselves at risk of drug misuse, we will seek support from our Education Social Worker and if appropriate refer to a specialist agency

(ii) Sanctions

Where a school rule related to drug use, is broken, sanctions will be given. The type of sanction will depend on the nature and degree of the offence. Decisions about sanctions will be made by the Headteacher and consistent with the behaviour policy. In the unlikely event of an incident involving illegal drugs, permanent exclusion will be considered and used if needed.

Procedures for managing incidents

Reporting a drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are reported to the Headteacher
Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform Police immediately any incident involving a suspected illegal drug. Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact Trading Standards or the Police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to under age students, from local shops.

Recording the drug-related incident

All drug-related incidents are recorded using a drugs incident form. The form is given to the Headteacher and kept confidential in the school office.
In all drug-related incidents the Headteacher, in consultation with key staff, will decide on the responses, including the use of sanctions and/or counselling and support.
It is very rare for primary-age pupils to misuse drugs in school, however we believe it is important to be prepared should such an incident occur.

Medical emergencies when a pupil is unconscious as a result of drug use

Staff with first aid qualifications should be called immediately but the pupils not left alone. The pupil will be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called immediately. Parents/carers will be informed immediately.

Intoxication, when a pupil is under the influence of a drug

The pupil will be removed to a quiet room and not left alone. The first aider and Headteacher called. The pupil will be helped to calm down and medical assistance sought immediately. Parents/carers will be informed and called to the school.

Discovery/observation

When a person is discovered using, supplying or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises and which is described in this policy.

If the substance is suspected to be illegal, staff can take temporary possession of it will be confiscated, in the presence of a second member of staff as witness.

- The sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present and stored in a secure location (eg a safe or lockable container) with access limited to the Head and Deputy Head.
- The pupil will be taken to the school office and the Head or Deputy Head called and the pupils questioned.
- The police will be notified immediately, who will collect it and store or dispose of it, in line with locally agreed protocols.
- We will record details of the incident, including the police incident reference number.
- We will inform the pupil's parents/carers and they will be asked to come into school, unless it is not in the best interests of the child to do so.
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and sanctions response including internal exclusion whilst investigations are carried out.

If the substance is legal (but unauthorised in school) it will be disposed of or handed to the parent/carer.

Searches

Staff are allowed to confiscate pupil's property, as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so, including substances, whether legal or not.

If staff find other substances which are not believed to be illegal/controlled drugs these can be confiscated where staff believe them to be harmful or detrimental to good behaviour.

If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as an illegal drug.

If a member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is carrying illegal drugs on them or in their personal property, they will ask the pupil to voluntarily produce the substance, in the presence of two members of staff. In circumstances where a pupil refuses to do this the member of staff will discuss with the Headteacher who may decide to carry out a search in the presence of another member of staff. The Headteacher is the only person authorised to carry out a search, unless they are not the same sex as the pupil and then the Headteacher will authorise a senior member of staff. The search will take place in school or where staff have lawful control of pupils.

Teachers can search pupils' bags/trays and in circumstances where a member of staff believes drugs have been stored there, they will seek the pupils' consent and search with a Senior member of staff present. If consent is refused the decision to search will be taken by the Headteacher.

Dealing with drug-taking materials

School site staff make regular checks of the school grounds and know how to deal with drug-taking materials, including needles, in line with health and safety advice.

Pupils are taught what to do if they come across needles on the school premises and know not to touch needles and to inform a member of staff immediately.

Disclosure when a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs, or is concerned about someone else's drug use.

In these situations, staff will be non-judgemental and caring and will show concern for the pupil. Pupils know that teachers cannot promise total confidentiality. The Headteacher or Deputy should be informed as soon as possible so that appropriate support can be found.

ii **Suspicion/rumour.** Staff should not assume use of drugs on the basis of rumours or behaviour alone. However, if there is a suspicion, evidence will be collected over a period of time before a decision is made to question the pupil(s) involved.

iii **Intoxicated parents/carers**

Our schools rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

iv **Needs of pupils**

We are sensitive to the needs of students whose parent/carers or family members have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family

CONFIDENTIALITY

Pupils need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers cannot promise total confidentiality in order to seek specialist help if needed. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE and citizenship programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If teachers have any concerns about the welfare of children, they must inform the Head teacher.

Working with Parents and Carers

The school welcomes parents/carers who wish to share with us, their concerns about drugs. We signpost up to date information about drugs and where they can get further information, help and advice.

Parents/carers will be informed immediately if their child has been involved in a drug-related incident. However, there may be some exceptional situations where involving the parents may put the child at risk and in these cases, the school will exercise some caution. The decision will be taken by the Headteacher with the child's welfare a priority.

Involving the Police

In most cases a drug-related incident will be a school, rather than a police matter. However the school will contact our local police officer immediately if an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug has been found on the school premises, on a pupil or illegal drug dealing is taking place. We will only call 999 in an emergency.

REVIEW

This policy is reviewed every two years.

If an incident should occur, the policy is reviewed in the light of that incident.

The review will include feedback from the evaluations of drug education, included in the annual review of PSHE and Citizenship.

DISSEMINATING THE POLICY

The policy is on the school's website and a copy can be requested from the school office.

Notes & Guidance: Core Theme Spring - Health and wellbeing

Key Stage 1

Pupils should have the opportunity to learn:

Year 1:

- to recognise what they like and dislike, how to make real, informed choices that improve their physical and emotional health, to recognise that choices can have good and not so good consequences
- about good and not so good feelings, a vocabulary to describe their feelings to others and simple strategies for managing feelings
- rules for and ways of keeping physically and emotionally safe (including road safety, safety in the environment, safety online, the responsible use of ICT, the difference between secrets and surprises and understanding not to keep adults' secrets)
- that household products, including medicines, can be harmful if not used properly
- to recognise that they share a responsibility for keeping themselves and others safe, when to say, 'yes', 'no', 'I'll ask' and 'I'll tell'
- about people who look after them, their family networks, who to go to if they are worried and how to attract their attention, ways that pupils can help these people to look after them
- about change and loss and the associated feelings (including moving home, losing toys, pets or friends)

Year 2:

- what constitutes a healthy lifestyle including the benefits of physical activity, rest, healthy eating and dental health
- to think about themselves, to learn from their experiences, to recognise and celebrate their strengths and set simple but challenging goals
- about the process of growing from young to old and how people's needs change
- about growing and changing and new opportunities and responsibilities that increasing independence may bring
- the names for the main parts of the body (including external genitalia) the similarities and differences between boys and girls.

Key Stage 2

Building on Key Stage 1, pupils should have the opportunity to learn:

Year 3:

- school rules about health and safety, basic emergency aid procedures, where and how to get help
- about change, including transitions (between Key Stages and schools), loss, separation, divorce and bereavement
- to reflect on and celebrate their achievements, identify their strengths, areas for improvement, set high aspirations and goals
- to recognise their increasing independence brings increased responsibility to keep themselves and others safe
- the importance of protecting personal information, including passwords, addresses and images

Year 4:

- to deepen their understanding of good and not so good feelings, to extend their vocabulary to enable them to explain both the range and intensity of their feelings to others
- to recognise that they may experience conflicting emotions and when they might need to listen to their emotions or overcome them
- that pressure to behave in an unacceptable, unhealthy or risky way can come from a variety of sources, including people they know and the media
- to recognise when and how to ask for help and use basic techniques for resisting pressure to do something dangerous, unhealthy, that makes them uncomfortable, anxious or that they believe to be wrong
- strategies for keeping physically and emotionally safe including road safety, safety in the environment and safety online (including social media, the responsible use of ICT and mobile phones)
- about people who are responsible for helping them stay healthy and safe and ways that they can help these people

the importance of and how to maintain personal hygiene

- how some diseases are spread and can be controlled and the responsibilities they have for their own health and that of others

Year 5:

- to recognise opportunities to make their own choices about food, what might influence their choices and the benefits of eating a balanced diet
- what is meant by the term 'habit' and why habits can be hard to change
- to differentiate between the terms, 'risk', 'danger' and 'hazard'
- to deepen their understanding of risk by recognising, predicting and assessing risks in different situations and deciding how to manage them responsibly (including sensible road use and risks in their local environment) and to use this as an opportunity to build resilience
- that bacteria and viruses can affect health and that following simple routines can reduce their spread

Year 6:

- what positively and negatively affects their physical, mental and emotional health (including the media)
- how to make informed choices (including recognising that choices can have positive, neutral and negative consequences) and to begin to understand the concept of a 'balanced lifestyle'
- which, why and how, commonly available substances and drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) could damage their immediate and future health and safety, that some are legal, some are restricted and some are illegal to own, use and supply to others

May be more suited to summer term

- how their body will change as they approach and move through puberty
- to recognise how images in the media do not always reflect reality and can affect how people feel about themselves
- about human reproduction