

ST. ALOYSIUS' CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Through Jesus, we learn, love and grow together.

INTRODUCTION

At St Aloysius we are deeply committed to the academic, moral, social, spiritual and physical development and education of all our pupils. We aim to provide the opportunities for our pupils to develop the skills and attitudes needed to make healthy informed choices about their lives.

This policy outlines the purpose and management of the teaching and learning of drug education. It aims to address the needs of our pupils, staff, parents, and governors and addresses the legal responsibility of the school.

WHY A POLICY IS NEEDED - THE AIMS

The National curriculum for Science includes drugs education at Key Stage 2 within the Programme of Study for Animals including humans:

Pupils should be taught to recognise the impact of diet, exercise, drugs and lifestyle on the way their bodies function.

Drug education is also naturally a part of citizenship falling under the wider remit of Personal Health and Social Education. The scheme of work for PSHE and Citizenship includes topics that teach children about 'The World of Drugs', its dangers and the many influences children may be under. It aims to ensure children feel able to make informed choices about drugs.

At St Aloysius we recognise that the use of illegal drugs is an unfortunate, yet prevalent aspect of our society and experimentation with drugs is often a feature of growing up, sometimes even for children of primary age. We are also aware that young people in this area are sometimes exposed to drugs and drug paraphernalia and therefore, it is our responsibility as educators, to ensure that our pupils recognise risks and have the skills and attitudes necessary to independently make healthy informed choices.

Having a school drug policy enables us to be proactive in our approach to drugs from both an educational standpoint (providing a well planned and integrated programme) and a procedural standpoint, preventing the 'knee jerk' reaction to an immediate crisis.

DEFINITION OF DRUGS

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned both with substances taken for medical and those taken for non- medical purposes. In this document drugs taken for medical purposes will be called ‘medicines’ while those taken for non-medical purposes will be called ‘drugs’.

Medicines will have been obtained legitimately, normally by adults for themselves or their children, over the counter or by prescription e.g. antibiotics, painkillers.

Drugs are legal, illegal or legally obtained substances sold for legitimate purposes.

Legal drugs, such as tobacco or alcohol, may be obtained over the counter by adults, but not by children of primary school age.

Illegal drugs are those such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack and heroin and drugs which may be used by children such as ‘poppers’.

Some substances (e.g. solvents, lighter fuel and Tippex thinner) that can be obtained over the counter for legitimate purposes may be misused as drugs.

POLICY ON USE OF DRUGS IN SCHOOL

The staff at St Aloysius believe that the possession and use of drugs, and any other substances that can be used as drugs, is inappropriate, whether obtained legally or illegally.

No drugs as defined above are permitted to be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises at any time. These rules apply to pupils, school staff and any other adults working in or for the school, apart from the use of alcohol at official school events.

Any breaking of these rules will result in sanctions and may result in the exclusion of pupils. Adults will be referred to the school’s disciplinary procedure.

MEDICATION

No member of staff is allowed to give casual medication to pupils or staff, whether in school or on school trips. Casual medication includes anything from painkilling drugs and cold cures to Vaseline creams and eye-drops.

Parents must make special requests in writing to the Head teacher, asking the first aid officer, or nominated person, to administer a drug for a current medical condition, but before complying with this request the Head teacher may need clarification from the pupil’s GP.

If a pupil needs to take painkillers, they must be given with a letter from home to the first aid officer who will give a log of the time and dose.

Pupils who suffer from asthma must ensure their inhaler is handed into and kept in the office.

Parents of pupils going on any school trips will be asked to identify in detail and explain any special medication.

All medication taken by pupils must be handed into the office fully labelled with instructions for use.

DRUG EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND RESOURCES

This school provides a comprehensive and planned education curriculum for all pupils, as part of the science curriculum and health education within Personal Social and Health Education

and aims to provide all pupils with knowledge, attitudes and skills to make informed decisions about drugs.

This school acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in so doing, helps to foster positive self images which may help pupils to cope better in situations involving drug use.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF DRUG EDUCATION

Monitoring and evaluation of drug education will take place in the form of teacher assessment during science and PSHCE lessons. This may be through discussion or written work. The PSHCE subject leader is responsible for ensuring drug education is carried out according to the scheme of work.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND SUPPORTING PUPILS

Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information with the Head teacher being informed. Staff should explain carefully to pupils that under certain circumstances a confidence may have to be broken if the member of staff is to keep the child's welfare paramount. General discussions may allow the pupil to gain the information they require without fear of being reprimanded. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people; Head teacher, class teacher, social worker, police, school nurse.

WORKING WITH PARENTS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Parents can have access to this policy when their child enters the school. They will be informed of the drug education programme and any concerns will be considered.

Parents will be contacted if their child breaks the school rules involving drugs. Support and guidance will be made available to parents by the school or through referral to other agencies whenever possible.

Children are encouraged to talk about the subject at home and parents/carers are informed that such work is taking place in school. We hope that the support of parents and a positive school ethos will foster feelings of self worth amongst pupils to assist them with coping in situations involving drugs.

WORKING WITH THE POLICE

In most cases any punishment is likely to be a school not a police matter. However the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, MDMA (ecstasy), amphetamines and cannabis and other drugs as well. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply these drugs and it allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing they hand it to the police or destroy it immediately.

This school maintains strong links with the local community police, which help pupils to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the Law. It is the policy of the school to contact the local community police officer where an incident has involved

illegal substances, and to hand the substance over to the police. In any circumstances where this cannot be achieved the drugs are to be destroyed in the presence of a witness.

PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

In all situations the following principles apply:

- i) All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response.
- ii) The needs of the child will always come first.
- iii) The pastoral system will be the first response if at all possible.
- iv) Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation.
- v) Support agencies including the police will be involved if appropriate.
- vi) Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling if appropriate.
- vii) Responses may include both a disciplinary and a counselling response.

RECORDING INCIDENTS

The reporting procedure ensures that only a limited number of people will be involved in any incident. All incidents are reported to the Head teacher. If exclusion is considered appropriate then the procedure for this is put into action by the Head teacher involving the governors. All incidents are recorded and kept in the office as confidential items.

TRAINING AND SUPPORTING STAFF

This school will ensure that staffs receive effective training to help them provide effective drug education and support for their teaching and understanding of the issues. The school takes advantage of the support, advice, information and training provided by Camden Education.

MONITORING THE POLICY

The Head Teacher and Senior Leadership Team will monitor the policy by regular reviews and observations.

This policy was updated by Mr O'Shea the Headteacher

This policy was agreed in Summer 2016 on 30th June 2016

Review and update by Summer 2020

Signed

Chair of the SEND and Curriculum Committee

