

St. Peter's C of E Academy
Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy

As a church school, we believe that 'Giving children the keys to unlock their future' will enable all pupils to flourish within our care and achieve their full potential. This is underpinned by the words of Jesus:

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." (John 10:10)

"I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 16:19)

INTRODUCTION

St Peter's C of E Academy believes that the misuse of drugs endangers not only our pupils but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is the school's responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

This policy provides a focus for the school to consider how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing personal, social and health education programmes, and the drug education programme complements this.

RATIONALE

St Peter's C of E Academy recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the drug culture that exists.

The school wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health; by equipping pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Drugs education should therefore form an integral part of the school curriculum.

DRUGS EDUCATION IN CONTEXT

A life skills approach to drug prevention is essential. Within the programme, pupils are taught about raising self-esteem, self confidence and assertiveness to prepare them for making informed decisions about drug use, the main focus being on knowledge, social skills, attitudes and values.

THE RANGE OF SUBSTANCES

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks.' As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- alcohol and tobacco
- 'over the counter medicines' such as painkillers
- prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- volatile substances such as glues and aerosols

St. Peter's C of E Academy
Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy

- illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs.

If the Head Teacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises, he or she will take appropriate steps to inform the relevant bodies in order to avoid any liability as a 'manager or occupier' of premises.

If staff have taken possession of a substance for the purposes of protecting a pupil from harm and from committing an offence; they should under no circumstance, try to analyse or identify it. If they suspect it to be an illegal drug, they should wear gloves when handling it, to avoid ingestion through the skin. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, and the police contacted.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

A suspected drug related incident is described as:

- Suspect drugs found on the school premises
- A pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs
- A pupil found to be in possession of drugs
- A pupil suspected of being under the influence of drugs
- An adult suspected of being under the influence of drugs

When an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- Secure any suspected illegal drug in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident to the head teacher immediately

The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police in this area. The parents/ carers will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the designated teacher.

If there is a concern regarding drug use by the pupil in our care, normal safeguarding procedures will be followed and consideration will be given to making a referral to the Local Authority if the child is at risk of significant harm.

All staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed. If a search needs to be made, the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is considered to be either:

- A situation in which a pupil or staff is in danger, or
- A sequence of events which require urgent attention.
- An alert card will be sent to each classroom to inform staff to follow agreed emergency procedures.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However, the teacher can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents/ carers. A record will be made of the disclosure and the Head Teacher is to be informed. Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that his or her parents or carers are drug users, child protection procedures should be followed.

THE PLACE OF DRUGS EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

Drug education should not be seen as a one-off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, the statutory curriculum for pupils includes the cross-curricular theme of Health Education. This theme provides opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, on health and lifestyle.

Drugs education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects, such as Religious Education, English, and Physical Education. There are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The school's drugs education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

AIMS

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.

St. Peter's C of E Academy
Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy

- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

OBJECTIVES

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

THE DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drugs Education is a whole staff issue. St Peter's Academy follows the National Curriculum and ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

St Peter's C of E Academy may use outside agencies to help deliver the drug education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency.
- CRB disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.

LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE

Parents and carers play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. They are involved in the planning of the school drug policy and they should be involved fully in the education of their child. This is especially so with the drug education programmes. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks and discuss drug issues with their child. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents.

St. Peter's C of E Academy
Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy

The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

St Peter's C of E Academy has developed good working relationships with the local police. This helps to ensure that if a drug related incident is reported, it will be dealt with in a professional and discrete manner, and in keeping the best interests of the child concerned in mind.

Medicines administered by staff to children are covered by the Judicium First Aid and Medicines Policy.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Head Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse. His or her role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident.
- Receiving any substance found in school.
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities on any drug related incident.
- Regularly updating staff on the policy and the procedures for dealing with a drug related incident.
- The induction of new staff as appropriate.
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents.
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy every 2 years or when required.

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

The school drug education policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drugs use. We follow the programmes of study from the National Curriculum for drug education and will review our teaching in line with changes deemed as necessary.