



Drugs Education Policy

Aims of Drugs Education

St. Columba's Catholic Primary School defines the term drugs as referring to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

We believe that drugs education in this school will be developmental and a foundation for further development in the secondary school.

Drugs education will contribute to the requirements of Section 1 of the 1988 Education Reform Act and the school curriculum should be one which:

- "promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society" and
- "prepares such pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life"

The whole school will work towards these aims in partnership with parents. The aim of the drugs education policy is to clarify the content and manner in which drugs education will be delivered in this school and in no way contradicts or replaces the school's legal obligation to report crimes to the Police.

Other school policies which have relevance to drugs are:

- Equal Opportunities
- Sex and Relationships Education
- Child Protection
- Behaviour/Anti-bullying
- Teaching and Learning
- Special Educational Needs
- Health and Safety
- PHSE and Citizenship

Moral and Values Framework

The drugs education programme will reflect the school's over-arching aims and demonstrate and encourage the following values

- Respect for self
- Respect for others
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their own family, friends, school and wider community



Equal Opportunities

The school is committed to working towards equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life. All resources used will support this commitment.

Content

The drugs education programme will:

- Provide information that is relevant and appropriate to the age, diversity and developmental stage of the pupils
- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills
- Foster self-esteem, positive image and confidence

The content of the drugs education programme will be based on the recommended LA drugs education curriculum programme using "Health for Life" as a framework

Topics will include:

- Medicine (drugs)
- Personal safety
- My healthy body
- Substance abuse

Organisation

Drugs education will be co-ordinated by the PSHE Co-ordinator in close co-operation with the Headteacher.

Delivery will be:

- As topics
- Through planned aspects of science
- Addressed occasionally in assembly time
- Through pastoral care (e.g. in circle time)
- Through story time

Active Learning methods which involve pupils' full participation will be used.



Specific Issues Statement

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the school boundaries (school premises, grounds and on school trips).

In the event of a drug related incident the school will contact the LA School Drug Support Adviser for advice, support and liaison with the police.

Searches

Every effort will be made to persuade a pupil to hand over voluntarily any suspected substance in the presence of a witness. Searches of property will not be undertaken without prior consent.

Outside Organisations

Outside organisations will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of classroom based work.

Confidentiality

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain action will ensue.

Managing Parents/Carers under the influence of drugs on school premises

Staff will attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere, when dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on school premises. The child's welfare will be the school's focus.

Complaints Procedure

Any complaints about the drugs education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher who will report to the Governors via the link Governor.

Solvent based products

The following solvent based products are not allowed on the school premises

- Aerosols (e.g. deodorant)
- Solvent based felt tip pens
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Tobacco products

The school adheres to and enforces the Local Authority no smoking policy.



Medication in school

All pupils who suffer from asthma will personally retain their inhalers, but these must be signed in at the main school office. Other medication sent to school must be signed in, using the school form, detailing the medical condition and time and dosage required.

Records will be kept of amounts received and dispensed.

Incidents of Drug Possession Outside School

Residential Trip

Where a pupil is found in possession of drugs during a residential trip the following procedures would be adopted:

- Immediate confiscation of the substance found
- School and LA Drug Advisers immediately informed and subsequently the parents of the pupil
- Upon consultation with LA School Drug Advisers an appropriate course of action can be undertaken based on individual circumstances
- The pupil to be returned to school as soon as possible
- The school's drug policy to be activated on the pupil's return

Day Trip

Where a pupil is found in possession of drugs during a day trip, the following procedures will be adopted:

- Immediate confiscation of the substance found
- School informed as soon as practicable
- Consult LA School Drug Advisers for advice
- Pupil to be kept with a member of staff for the rest of the day
- Parents to collect pupil on return from day trip
- The school's drugs policy to be activated on the pupil's return

Disciplinary Procedures

The school recognises the need for a progressive response to a drug related incident and will handle each case individually recognising that the future of the pupils involved could be affected by the decision and the subsequent action employed.

With this in mind the following hierarchy of disciplinary procedures will be referred to. All incidents will be recorded using the LA drug incident forms and a copy sent to the LA. The incident will also be recorded and retained by the Headteacher.



Substance/Offence	Reaction
Tobacco- possession/consumption	Confiscation of the substance, talk to pupil and inform parents
Alcohol– possession	Confiscation of the substance, talk to pupil and inform parents
Alcohol– intoxication	Attend to pupil, administer first aid if necessary. Talk to pupil, inform parents and arrange support through the LA School Drug Support Adviser
Solvents– possession	Confiscation of the substance, talk to pupil and inform parents
Solvents– consumption	Attend to pupil, administer first aid if necessary. Talk to pupil, inform parents and arrange support through the LA School Drug Support Adviser
Class C drugs e.g. cannabis- Possession/consumption	Confiscation of the substance, inform LA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents, 3 days exclusion and agreed school contract
Class C drugs- dealing	Confiscation of the substance, inform LA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Long exclusion 10 days/permanent exclusion
Class B drugs e.g. amphetamine- Possession/consumption- First offence	Confiscation of the substance, inform LA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents, 3 days exclusion and agreed school contract
Class B drugs e.g. amphetamine- Dealing	Confiscation of the substance, inform LA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Long exclusion 10 days/permanent exclusion
Class A drugs e.g. heroin- Possession/consumption/dealing	Confiscation of the substance, inform LA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Permanent exclusion

Following court proceedings the school would consider re-instating the pupil subject to consideration of the following:

- The court decision and recommendations
- Parental attitude



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- Pupil attitude
- Other pupils'/parents' attitudes

If it is deemed inappropriate to re-instate the pupil the school will assist in finding an alternative school placement.

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