



St Anne's Catholic Primary

Drugs Education and Management Policy

Date re-adopted	September 2025	Review Cycle	3 years	Next Reviewed	September 2028		
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PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION:OVERVIEW

Definition: What do we mean by a drug?

A drug is any substance taken into the body, which alters the way, the body functions emotionally, physically or mentally. This includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines as well as illicit substances. The school's drugs education programme reflects the school's over-arching aims and promotes: respect for self and others, responsibility for own actions and responsibility for family, friends, school and wider community. It also promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils; prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life and is a foundation for further development in secondary school. The school's drug and substance abuse management procedure reflect both current advice and our Mission Statement.

AIMS

Through our blended provision our children develop the knowledge and understanding of the effects of substance abuse and the moral framework necessary to make healthy and informed life choices.

STRATEGIES

In order to achieve our aims our school:

Within the curriculum Drugs education with respect to alcohol and tobacco misuse and their consequences and the use of prescribed medications is delivered in an age appropriate manner through the science curriculum and topics include: medicine (drugs), personal safety, my healthy body and substance abuse. The focus of teaching and learning includes the promotion of self-esteem, positive self-image and confidence and the understanding that through knowledge and the opportunity to develop both an increased understanding of consequences and a moral framework we are enabling our children to make healthy and informed choices.

Solvent Based Products are to be stored securely and used with discretion and care. Where children need to use such products this will be under close supervision.

Within R.E, PSHE and Worship Children are supported to reflect upon their uniqueness and intrinsic value and to understand that positive choices foster this.

Beyond the formal curriculum: school's ethos, personal uniqueness and intrinsic value are given a high status as are rights, responsibilities and good choices. These key messages are delivered through: Assemblies and Circle Time.

Our school participates in the National Healthy School Programme, which promotes health education.

Parents are informed of the aspects of drug education that will be taught to their children for

the academic year through the curriculum guides sent out each term. When possible, staff, parents and carers will be given the opportunity to meet with outside professionals that assist us with the delivery of our education programme, e.g. the school nurse.

THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Today's children are under increased influences and pressures and their knowledge of drugs in society have been accelerated by constant media coverage. Although we feel that drug related incidents are likely to be rare, we do realise the importance of having a policy that outlines the management of such incidents should they occur. All adults within the school need to be aware of how to deal with such situations and their effect on the pupil, family school and themselves. The overall welfare of the children involved and their parents is kept in mind at all times

The Head Teacher is the designated person to deal with drugs related issues within the school.

Suspicion/hearsay

Any hearsay/rumour about pupil drug use will be carefully evaluated in the light of the school's own knowledge about the pupil and sensitively investigated before any action is taken.

If staff believe the rumour unfounded steps will be taken to challenge the rumour and its effects, e.g.:

- challenging the behaviour that might have led to the rumour
- challenging the source of the rumour

If the rumour is found to be true the Head Teacher will follow steps 3 and 4 outlined below.

Possession

If a child is found with or suspected of possessing a harmful substance it will be removed by the member of staff who discovered it. Ideally, another adult should witness this transfer. This is to ensure that there is no accusation of a member of staff being in possession of the substance rather than the child. The situation will be investigated promptly and thoroughly and a written record made.

Consultation

The Head Teacher will be informed immediately and the child will be taken to the Head's office. The Head will then explain the seriousness of the incident to the child before informing the parents, who will be asked to come to the school. The Police will be called if the substance is believed to be an illegal one.

Contacting Parents

Parents will always be informed when a case of substance misuse has been positively identified. A three-way discussion will occur between all parties to ascertain the best way forward. This may include the involvement of outside agencies and the Police, especially in the case of drugs and solvents.

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 advice from the LA Drugs Support Advisor and will be made in the presence of witnesses. Parents will be contacted before a search of pupils or their belongings is carried out.

First Aid

Pupils deemed to need first aid at the time of the incident will be assessed by a qualified member of the office staff, who will decide if any further assistance is required.

Recording Incidents

All drug related incidents will be recorded and kept in the confidential filing system.

The school responds to drug related incidents on an individual basis using a progressive response as outlined in the LEA's hierarchy of disciplinary procedures. (See below). All incidents are recorded using the LEA drug incidents forms and a copy sent to the LEA. Such incidents are also recorded in the drug incident book retained by the head teacher.

OUTCOMES

Substance / Offence	Response
Tobacco – possession / consumption	Confiscation of the substance. Talk to pupil and inform parent
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 LEA School Drug Support Advisers
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 parent and arrange support through the LEA School Drug Support Advisers
Class C drugs e.g. cannabis – possession/consumption	Confiscation of the substance, inform LEA School Drug Support Adviser. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Long exclusion 10 days/permanent exclusion.
Class C drugs e.g. cannabis – dealing	Confiscation of the substance, inform the LEA School Drug Support Adviser. 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 LEA School Drug Support Advisers. Talk to pupil and inform parents. 3-day exclusion and agreed school contract.
Class B drugs e.g. amphetamine – dealing	Confiscation of the substance, inform LEA 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 LEA 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/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. Disposal of Substances Unprescribed drugs and solvents will be disposed of in the manner advised by the Police. Disclosure About Substance Abuse The Head will follow up and deal with any information about substance abuse that is disclosed by a pupil. Drug/substance abusing parents The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal or illegal) may be problematic. The pupil's welfare in this case is paramount and any information disclosed about substance abuse, within a pupil's home environment or local area, would be followed up by the Head Teacher. It may be deemed necessary to inform Social Services and/or the Police. The school will act within the legal limits that it can, to support the pupil in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. 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. 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. Health and Safety The public can gain access to the site, so it is feasible that evidence of drugs misuse may be found on site. The Caretaker and /or staff supervising playtimes check the playground and grassy area to ensure they are safe for the children. When handling any substances that are believed to harmful or drugs related, no direct contact should be made. Syringes	

should be placed in a heavy plastic container until advice can be sought about their safe disposal.

Drugs and Alcohol in School

Use of Alcohol in School

There may be occasions when the school may consider it appropriate to sanction the use of alcohol on the premises, i.e. an adult social function. On such occasions the following guidelines should be followed:

- The alcohol is stored in a safe and secure location
- The Governing Body approve functions where alcohol is served

Staff members do not take alcohol on site during the school's opening times or when they are off site leading Field Trips.

Tobacco

The school is a designated non-smoking area.

Medication in school

Prescribed drugs will only be administered for the benefit of a child's long-term health, i.e. asthma sufferers will be supervised in the taking of their daily inhaler. Emergency inhalers will be kept in school and taken into the Hall or on to the yard for P.E., as well as to the swimming pool and on school trips. These and other medication are kept in a sealed, named box with a photograph of the child and a medical plan drawn up with the school, parents and School Nurse. Prescribed medication or paracetamol syrups required to be taken during school hours will be stored in the medical room refrigerator. It must be in a named plastic bag and the dosage must be clear.

Complaint's Procedures

Any complaints about the drugs education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher or Chair of Governors.

OUTCOMES

Our children develop the knowledge and understanding and moral framework necessary to make healthy and informed life choices.

MONITORING EVALUATION REVIEW

The School Leadership and the Governing Body monitor the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of this policy every 3 years.