



St Mary's and Our Lady's Academies – Drug, alcohol and Tobacco Policy

**"Through the strength of God's love and the power of prayer
we are guided to do whatever He tells us. Many hearts,
one accord, we grow and learn together for life to build the kingdom of God."
(School Mission Statement)**

Context

This policy reflects the shared values and aims of St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academies and provides guidance to teachers, support staff, parents, governors and pupils. PHSE is a valued part of the curriculum at St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace as it provides children with the vital skills to become healthy and happy children, better equipped to become part of society.

Whilst drugs related incidents are extremely rare at St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace, the school is situated in an area of some social deprivation. It is possible that children may encounter drug related incidents outside of school. Our drugs education programme aims to address such situations.

Through the teaching of drugs awareness we encourage our children to have knowledge of drugs in our society and their effect, thus enabling children to make informed decisions. The policy will apply to any activity within the school boundaries and any journeys made in school time and on residential trips. In this policy the school day is defined as being ten minutes before the start of school and ten minutes after school. Between these times the 'in loco parentis' responsibilities would apply.

The policy is displayed in the school entrance and accessible to all.

Reference to the policy will be made at induction sessions (for pupils, staff, parents and governors)

The policy will also be referenced, in part, in staff handbooks, parent/ carers booklets and the school prospectus.

For the purpose of this policy a 'drug' is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes both legal and illegal substances, volatile substances (solvents), alcohol, tobacco and prescribed drugs.

The Aim of Drug Education

As a Catholic School, we aim, in our teaching, to provide children with a sense of belonging and an excellent start in their life journey, secure in the knowledge that God loves them. This is particularly the case in PSHE, where we will endeavour to increase children's self-awareness and self-esteem, thus enabling children to be more confident to deal with drug related situations.

The aim of drug education provides the opportunity for pupils/young people to explore and develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to drugs and drug related issues to enable them to make informed decisions.

Drug education will increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs;
- the rules and laws relating to drugs;
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers;
- the complex moral, social, economical and political issues surrounding drugs.

It will develop pupils personal and social skills in order to make informed decisions to keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing self-awareness and self esteem

The policy will enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influence.

At St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we aim for a whole school approach to drug education, following the guidance and scheme of work 'Jigsaw'. When planning, teachers will modify as necessary, the programme of work to provide all pupils with relevant and appropriately challenging work in each key stage. This will provide a more inclusive curriculum which will:

- set suitable learning challenges
- respond to pupil's diverse learning needs
- overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils.

Planning and Teaching Drug Education

Drug education is delivered through the PSHE curriculum because it focuses on providing pupils with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes.

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we will use the following::

- the non-statutory framework for PSHE and Citizenship at Key Stages 1 and 2
- Jigsaw Scheme of work

- the statutory requirements within the national Curriculum science order for all phases as the basis for developing drug education.

Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Elements of drug education that form part of the Science Curriculum at KS1 and 2 must be assessed in accordance with the requirements of National Curriculum Science. The learning from other elements of Drug Education will also be addressed in order to establish:

- the knowledge and understanding pupils have gained and its relevance to them.
- What skills they have developed and put into practice
- How their feelings and attitudes have been influenced by the programme

Staff are encouraged to conduct regular assessments and could use the following methods:

- Seeking feedback from pupils at the end of their lessons on their progress and achievements, both individually and as a group.
- More formal assessments on their learning and its value to them.
- Teacher assessment of activities undertaken and work completed
- Class discussion aimed at helping pupils identify what they should do next.
- Inviting pupils and teachers to reflect on the programme.

Drug Education provision will be monitored by the PHSE leader as part of whole school monitoring procedures. Monitoring could involve talking to pupils about their understanding of the curriculum area and their feelings about the way they are taught/ activities etc.

Drug Related Issues and Incidents

Rationale

Directors and staff at St. Mary's and Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academies believe the possession or use of illegal/unauthorised drugs on school premises is unacceptable and should be dealt with firmly, promptly and fairly. We also acknowledge that authorised drugs on school premises need to be managed appropriately and that unauthorised possession is not permitted.

Our School has a Drug Policy and a Drug Education Programme for all children. However a pupil at our school may choose to use legal substances inappropriately, or experiment with illegal substances even if they have the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. This Drug-Related Issues and Incidents Policy provides guidance should there be a substance related incident on school premises. The school acknowledges the importance of the **DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)** as a key reference document for procedures in this area.

The Principal holds responsibility for drug related incidents

The primary concern at St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace is the care and welfare of all our children. We will seek to balance the safety and security of pupils at all times.

There are a number of children in our school who may require medication to be administered during the school day. Pupils with medical conditions requiring this on a regular basis should be made known to all staff and members of the school community. The Principal holds responsibility for administering medication where necessary. Medication is administered in accordance with school policy. Asthma inhalers are held by the children in Key stage Two and by the class teacher in Key stage One and Foundation Stage.

The Definition of a Drug Incident

A drug incident is one where there are suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving unauthorised drugs. A drug incident could fit into the following categories:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the school premises.
- A pupil is found in possession of drugs
- A pupil is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area.
- A pupil discloses that they or a family member/ friend is using drugs.
- A parent/ carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs on the school premises.

Procedures for Dealing with a Medical Emergency and Major Incident.

In every case of an incident involving drugs the staff at St. Mary's Catholic Primary School will place the utmost priority on:

Safety meeting any medical emergencies with First Aid summoning appropriate help

The school has many first-aid trained personnel who can be called upon to help deal with a substance-related medical emergency. With such instances either the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Management Team must be consulted. Professional medical help will be sought if there is any doubt as to the well-being of the pupil. Unless they are unconscious, a pupil may be intoxicated without it being a medical emergency. Pupils should be continually observed in case of changes in their condition. It is recommended that arrangements are made with the parent/carers for the child to be collected or escorted home/or alternative arrangements made if the school perceives the child to be more at risk at home.

Identification and Confiscation and Disposal of illegal Drugs

The staff at St. Mary's will confiscate drugs they suspect to be illegal, store them securely in the school safe and arrange for their disposal without delay. An adult witness will be present when confiscations occur and a record kept of the details. School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste confiscated substances.

If requested, Police can advise on analysis and formal identification.

Pharmacies can identify medicines.

The local Police will collect and dispose of drugs. The law does not require a school to divulge to the Police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were confiscated. Where a pupil is identified the Police will follow set procedures.

Confiscation of other unauthorised Drugs

In the case of alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, parents and carers will always be informed and may be given the opportunity to collect any alcohol, tobacco or medicines that have been confiscated.

However, because of the level of danger posed by volatile substances, such as lighter fuel, glue or aerosols, our school may arrange for their safe disposal itself.

Searches

When a pupil is suspected of concealing unauthorised drugs **IT IS NOT PERMISSIBLE FOR A MEMBER OF STAFF TO CARRY OUT A PERSONAL SEARCH.**

Every effort should be made to persuade the pupil to voluntarily hand over any drugs. If a personal search is needed and the drug is suspected of being illegal, the Police must be called to deal with the situation. However, staff may search pupils' desks or drawers if they believe drugs to be stored there. **The pupils' consent should always be sought.** Where consent is refused, staff at St. Mary's will balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk that a pupil's right to privacy may be infringed without just cause, before deciding to proceed with the search without consent.

PLEASE NOTE after any search, parents/carers should be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

Circumstances Defining Where Parents/Carers or Other Agencies Including the Police may need to be notified.

In the event of a drug related incident, the school will conduct a careful investigation to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident. The school will take into account what children have to say and ask open-ended questions. It is advised to separate any pupils involved in the incident and ensure that a second adult witness is present. Issues such as confidentiality, child protection, police intervention and referral to external agencies need to be given careful attention to safeguard the needs of those involved and to ensure an appropriate response is taken. Any incident involving the misuse of drugs will take account of:

- the age and maturity of the child or young person
- any previous incidents of drug misuse by the child or young person
- which drug/s are being used/supplied
- is the drug legal or illegal
- how much is being used and how often
- how they take the drug, where, with whom
- how long has it been going on
- the child's home circumstances
- pupil's knowledge and understanding of the school policy and rules

At St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace we value the support and expertise of outside agencies. Our school mentor would be the first point of contact. Specialist advice would be sought from the drugs awareness team. Other support agencies include the school nurse, Educational Welfare Officers and Community Police Officers.

Whilst there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we believe that we need to work in partnership with the police to outline:

- when an incident can be managed internally by the school
- when the police should be informed or consulted
- when the police should be actively involved
- when a pupil's name can be withheld and when it should be divulged to the police.

The school will inform parents / carers by phone in the first instance, then by letter. Any incident will be recorded on the drugs related incident form. A full record will be kept of such incidents.

Sensitive information will be stored in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Children must be made aware that whilst sometimes disclosures may be made by children in confidence, the adult must act in the best interests of the child. This may mean that the adult must pass on information for the safety of the child.

Responsibilities

The governor responsible for the formulation and development of the Drugs Education policy has been a member of the working party to discuss good practice and drugs education at St Mary's and Our Lady of Grace. In conjunction with the Healthy Schools agenda, this policy links closely with SRE, PHSE and the schools smoking policy.

A. Links to other Policies

Relevant policies include

PHSE

SRE

Confidentiality Policy

Medication Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Visitors Policy

Behaviour Policy

The whole school community shares a responsibility in the successful implementation of this policy.

This policy was agreed by staff in November 2018

This policy was approved by School Committee in November 2018

This policy will be reviewed by the School Committee in November 2021

Signed _____ Chair of Governors