

Pope Paul Catholic Primary School

'Learning in the Light of Christ'



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Mission Prayer

**We believe that we are all God's work of art.
We strive to respect and care for each other
and to use our talents to do our best
to build a better world.**

**By doing this, we are:
'Learning in the Light of Christ.'
Amen.**



Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

December 2024

Pope Paul Catholic School



‘Learning in the Light of Christ’

Validation grid

Title	Drugs & Substance Abuse Policy
Author	Liz Heymoz
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Target Audience	All stakeholders
Stake holders consulted	All staff& Governors
Curriculum / non curricular	Curricular, non-curricular
Associated Policies / Documents	Medicines in School, PSHE, Science
New Policy or Review of existing policy.	Review
Date of Submission	December 2024
Date for Review	December 2026
Date ratified by Governors	December 2024

Signed Headteacher

Signed..... Chair Of Governors

Further guidance came from the Hertfordshire County Council Drug Education Guidance document and national guidance, specifically DCSF *"Drugs: Guidance for Schools"* (February 2004).

This policy is drawn up taking consideration of the current teaching of the Church, and keeping as its central focus, Christ's call on us all "Love your neighbour as you love yourself". (LK 10:27b) It also acknowledges the part played by parents and carers as "the first educators" in educating their children about drugs.

Definition of Terms

This school defines the term 'drug' as:

"A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

It therefore includes tobacco, alcohol, solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines as well as illicit substances.

Values and aims

Set in the broader context of a programme for RE, Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education, Science and Citizenship, our drug education reflects the ethos of our school and the values of care and respect encapsulated in our Mission Prayer.

We aim to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well being.

We acknowledge that parents are the first educators of their child and so we seek to share the responsibility for drug education with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation.

The possession, use or supply of all non-medical drugs and/or illegal substances on school premises are unacceptable. There are occasions when alcohol may be sold or consumed on the premises as part of PTFA events. These are carefully monitored and appropriate licences and controls are in place. Alcohol, in the form of altar wine, is also consumed during Mass. The school is legally required to be smoke-free, following changes to legislation (July 2007).

This policy will apply on the school premises and beyond, wherever pupils are within the care of school staff. This includes school trips and educational visits. The school will also have an interest in the health and well-being of the pupils beyond these school boundaries and we would encourage parents and others in the community to adopt the same principles.

The school follows local and government level guidance on the administration of medicines in school and this policy links to our Health and Safety Policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that a number of young people may choose to use or misuse substances, it is important to recognise that the majority of young people are choosing not to do so. We will support their differing needs.

Rationale:

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give pupils knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate these to their own actions, both now and in the future.

We aim to:

- Enable our children to make healthy, informed choices
- Help our children to develop further a sense of self-worth and self esteem.
- Increase our children's understanding of the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- Help our children to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- Listen to our children's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- Counter any inaccurate messages and myths which our children may receive about drugs, with accurate information.
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- Enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found, by offering a Common Assessment where appropriate, or signposting to other options.

We intend to achieve our aims through:

- Helping them to increase their knowledge, through challenging and exploring the attitude they hold and through developing and practising relevant skills.
- Providing a consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs, including those with special educational needs and / or English as an additional language..
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other teaching opportunities.
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- A commitment to involving the whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers and pupils, in developing a cohesive approach to substance education and misuse.
- Working in an integrated way with other local professionals.
- Training and support for staff in the planning and implementation of drug education.
- Regular revision of policy and practice.
- Recognising that adults are role models for pupils and committing ourselves to a smoke-free environment; not using alcohol on premises, working in partnership with parents and carers and finding ways to avoid the need for over-the-counter drugs, such as finding a quiet space for headache sufferers.

Roles and Responsibilities

This policy is for all members of the school community and all employees at Pope Paul should be aware of the role they play in drug education and how their own behaviours and attitudes can impact upon others. They should also know how to respond appropriately to any possible drug-related incident.

Teaching and learning in this area of the curriculum will be informed by school policies including: behaviour; bullying; health and safety; equal opportunities; off-site visits; child protection and confidentiality.

The Governing Body

The Governing Body (GB) is responsible for monitoring the overall effectiveness of the school's drug education.

The role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that the policy is implemented effectively, including monitoring the curriculum content. She/he reports on this to the GB when requested.

The Headteacher is also responsible for managing the school's response to any drug-related incidents.

The role of the PSHE Leader

The PSHE Leader is responsible for overseeing the delivery of drug education and monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the policy and the curriculum.

He/she will also provide the Headteacher with information to report on the effectiveness of the policy for the Governing Body.

The role of teachers and support staff

Teachers and support staff have a responsibility for delivering the curriculum for drug education. They are also responsible for assessing children's needs and planning to meet these needs appropriately.

The role of parents/carers

Parents are the first educators of their child/ren and are responsible for working with the school to support their child's learning in this area of the curriculum.

The Drug Education Curriculum

It is essential for teachers and other staff working with pupils to create a climate of trust and support so that the drug education can be delivered in an environment where the children feel safe and their contributions valued. Staff should be aware that in delivering messages about the use and misuse of substances, they may be dealing with children for whom these issues are very real and, in some cases, problematic.

Whilst staff should be supportive of a pupil, they must remember they are working within child protection guidelines and must never promise confidentiality. Any and all concerns must be reported immediately to the Headteacher, who is also the Designated Senior Person.

The school uses a range of resources to deliver drug education, including ICT. Opportunities are taken for cross-curricular learning in science, PSHE, RE and so on. External agencies, such as the school nurse or the Ten-Ten Theatre, may be employed to deliver some of the learning.

Assessment and monitoring are in line with the whole school approaches.

Management of Drugs in School

The school refers to the Hertfordshire guidance when dealing with the management of drugs in school. At the heart of any response are the needs of the pupil and we seek to balance the interests of the individual, other members of the school community and the wider local community.

Storage

All prescribed medication (epipens, inhalers etc) for children with serious, life-endangering issues, will be kept in a container with the pupil's name clearly marked. These containers will be kept in the class medical bag. In the case of Class A drugs, these will be kept in a locked cabinet in the Headteacher's office.

Disposal of drug paraphernalia

Needles, sharps and any syringes used or found on the school premises will be placed in the sharps bin in the medical room and disposed of safely.

Administering medication during the school day

It is our policy not to administer medication during the school day. However, where children experience long-term and on-going medical issues, the school will work with parents and health professionals to devise a medical plan. A log will be kept of any medication administered. Staff involved will be given the appropriate training.

A list of the children who are taking prescribed drugs is kept updated.

Responding to a drug-related incident

The misuse of any drug or substance is regarded as a drug related incident. Children, parents or staff should immediately inform the Headteacher if:

- Any evidence of drug/substance misuse is found on school property
- A child is believed to possess such evidence
- Staff receive reports of a child being offered such evidence
- A child's behaviour or demeanour changes and this change is likely to be the result of having taken a drug or substance.

Each situation will be considered individually and responses will be informed by local and national guidance. We will also consider:

- o Family circumstances, if relevant
- o Any previous history of drug related incidents involving the pupil
- o The age and stage of development of the pupil and/or any special educational needs
- o Type of drug involved
- o The location of the incident
- o The nature of the incident – selling, using, supplying
- o Response of the pupil involved
- o What support can be offered.

External agencies, such as the police, may be involved in the response. We may refer pupils to other agencies, such as school health or Behavioural Support Team. The police will be involved in the disposal of any illegal drugs.

All incidents will be recorded and records stored securely, in accordance with GDPR. Written records will include: time, date, location and names and roles of those involved.

The Local Authority will be informed of all incidents.

If a child or adult is in need of medical support, assistance should be sought immediately and an ambulance called is necessary.

Parents will be informed as soon as possible, unless their involvement may put a child at risk (this would be dealt with under our Child Protection Policy and procedures). We hope to work with parents to resolve the child's difficulties.

When action is needed

Staff must take action in any of the following scenario:

Rumours/Suspensions

Staff should pass on to the Headteacher any rumours they have heard or suspicions they have about drug use, possession or dealing. They should also gather any evidence and seek assistance from another member of staff before confronting a pupil.

Disclosure

Staff should inform the Headteacher immediately if any a pupil makes disclosure directly to them. The Headteacher will then determine the best course of action, bearing in mind at all times the best interests of the pupil. Confidentiality is also to be maintained throughout.

Discovery

Staff must inform the Headteacher immediately if they find evidence of drug use, possession or dealing. They must also ensure that they confiscate any substances, unless by doing so, they put themselves or any other member of the community at risk.

Intoxication

It is vitally important to protect from harm the person who is under the influence. Staff alert another member of staff so that medical help can be summoned and keep the pupil under observation.

Emergency

If a pupil or other adult loses consciousness due to drug use or discloses they have taken a substance without there yet being physical evidence or symptoms, staff must:

- o Summon assistance from a first aider, but ensure they do not leave the pupil or adult unattended.
- o Check the airways are not blocked
- o Put the person in the recovery position
- o Ensure an ambulance is summoned
- o Keep the person warm
- o Contact parents or next-of kin.

Parents/carers under the influence of drugs, including alcohol.

The school will refuse entry to any parent/carer they feel may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol and who they feel present a danger to themselves or others. The school will not hesitate to contact the police if they feel the parent/carer is threatening the safety of anyone in the school. They will also follow child protection procedures if they have concerns about releasing children into the parents/carers care.