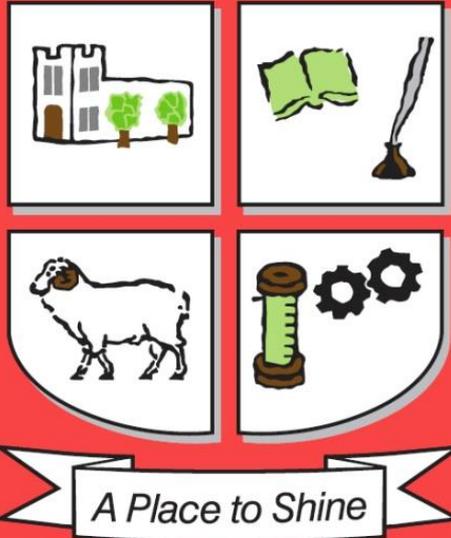


St. John's School
Rishworth



DRUGS EDUCATION AND DEALING WITH DRUGS POLICY

Reviewed	4th October 2018
Next Review (3 yrs)	Autumn 2021

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- To provide children with the knowledge that there are illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- To enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- To help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- To help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- To show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices;
- To ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

ORGANISATION

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. We believe that children with positive self-esteem and a pride in their individuality will find it easier to resist the peer pressure that lead to drug taking and addiction. For this reason our drugs education programme is strongly linked to PSHE and citizenship, where children are taught to value themselves and their individuality.

Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 5 and 6,

where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the PSHE Association. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the head teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The head teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.

The head teacher will monitor the policy regularly and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the head teacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the PSHE association and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:

- Inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;

- Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- Take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- Inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

DEALING WITH A DRUGS RELATED INCIDENT

(REFER TO DFES GUIDANCE – DFE Drug Advice for Schools)

A drugs incident involves:

- Suspicions
- Observations
- Disclosures
- Discoveries of situations involving illegal or other unauthorized drugs

In every case of an incident involving drugs, the utmost priority must be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, the person dealing with the incident should seek medical assistance immediately.

Establishing the nature of incidents

In all cases the advice offered in **DFES guidance – Drug Advice for schools (Sept 2012)** will be followed to establish the nature of the incident and how to deal with it subsequently.

Confidentiality

If a pupil discloses to an adult that he or she is taking drugs, the adult should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the adult can advise the pupil of other sources of confidential information or advice. Pupils should also be encouraged to talk to their parents. A record will be made of the disclosure (Child Protection 'Record of Concern') and the Head Teacher and Designated Member of Staff for Child Protection is to be informed. The matter will be treated as a potential safeguarding matter, and the parents contacted in the first instance.

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 paracetamol for headaches
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics and tranquilisers
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols

- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy

The school recognises that this policy focuses mainly on illicit drugs. Procedures for handling prescribed medicines are outlined in the school Medicines policy.

If the Head Teacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on the school premises appropriate steps will be taken 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. Staff should wear gloves when handling it, to avoid possible ingestion through the skin. The drug should be immediately stored in a safe place, and the police contacted.

PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING AND HANDLING 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 visitor or staff suspected of being under the influence of drugs

If an incident occurs the member of staff involved should:

- Make the situation safe
- Send for support
- Administer first aid if necessary
- If an illegal drug is found it should be secured in a safe place until dealt with by the police
- Report the incident.

Any incident will be reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded and held on file in the Headteacher's confidential records.

MONITORING AND REVIEW

The Governors will monitor the drugs education policy and the amendments made to it at Standards and Effectiveness meetings. The governors take into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded. Governors require the head teacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drug education programme taught in the school.