

St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School



Drugs Policy

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Mission Statement

Together with God we reach for the Stars.

Section 1

Drugs Education Vision Statement

The staff and Governors at St Thomas of Canterbury believe that Drug Education in school is a vital part of the way we can help young people make healthy and informed choices. This school aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and drug education is delivered as part of a wider program of personal, social, health and economic education.

At St Thomas of Canterbury, we aim to nurture happy, well rounded, independent and successful children and young adults. Drug education plays an important part in providing children opportunities to develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Links with other Policies and Initiatives

- The National Curriculum (2000)
- The Every Child Matters Agenda
- DfES Drugs Education Guidance 2004 and 2012
- St Thomas of Canterbury Mission Statement
- PSHE Policy
- Child Protection/Safeguarding
- Equal Opportunities
- Safe Internet Use
- Visitors in School Policy
- Salford Health Profile (www.apho.org.uk) See Appendix 1
- School Medicine Policy

Definition of Drugs

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
 - all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- (Taken from DfES Drug Education Guidance 2004)

Drugs which may be authorised in school

Some Medicines may be required to be in school and administered when directed. These should be stored and administered according to the school medicine policy, by trained members of staff.

Other

Procedures for handling alcohol and tobacco misuse are outlined in Appendix 1 and are also covered the *Discipline Policy*. Procedures for handling prescribed medicines and volatile substances are also outlined in Appendix 1 and are in the school *Health and Safety policy*. This policy complements these policies and also the *Child Protection Policy*. It does not exist in isolation.

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

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

When 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

The incident will be in the first incidence reported to the Head Teacher who will contact the police in this area. The parents will also be contacted and made aware of the situation. The incident will be recorded by the teacher involved and by the designated teacher.

All staff are made aware of the procedures and where necessary emergency procedures will be followed. If a search needs to be made the Head Teacher will conduct this with an appropriate witness.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

For the purposes of this policy, an emergency is considered to be either:

- A situation in which a pupil or staff is in danger, or
- A sequence of events which require urgent attention.
- Use of the existing 'red card' system in school in emergency situations

CONFIDENTIALITY

Where a pupil discloses to a teacher that he or she is taking drugs, the teacher should make it clear that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality. However the teacher 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 and the Head Teacher is to be informed.

THE PLACE OF DRUGS EDUCATION WITHIN THE CURRICULUM

Drug education should not be seen as a one off topic but as a continuous process which involves the development of skills and attitudes enabling pupils to make informed choices. Effective drug education should take account of not only the individual, but also the family, their peer groups, and the wider community. Where possible, the school promotes the partnership between the parent and child, when addressing drug issues.

At Key Stages 1 and 2, the statutory curriculum for pupils includes the cross-curricular theme of Health Education. This theme provides opportunities for young people to develop their knowledge and understanding of the use, misuse, risks and effects of drugs and other potentially harmful substances, their effects of health and lifestyle.

Drugs education is specifically included within the Programmes of Study for Science, and within other subjects, such as Religious Education, English, and Physical Education, there are opportunities for considering drug-related issues from a variety of perspectives. Year 6 also attend Crucial Crew, where they take part in a number of scenarios concerning their personal wellbeing.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The school's drugs education programme is grounded in the following aims and objectives:

AIMS

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health.
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect.
- To build pupils' self esteem.
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation.
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved.
- To help pupils to understand how they can influence their peers.
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals.

OBJECTIVES

Drugs Education should enable pupils to develop a knowledge and understanding about drugs and drug issues, as well as the skills needed to cope with challenges they will encounter.

Pupils should be able to:

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.

THE DELIVERY AND ORGANISATION OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Drugs Education is a whole staff issue. St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School ensures that staff are regularly updated with changes in the curriculum and changes to the policy, which have an effect on their delivery of the curriculum. Where possible staff received in-service training on drug issues.

EYFS

Drugs education will begin with children recognising healthy practices in their lifestyles and learning to make the correct choices within boundaries and rules. Children will be given responsibilities that will later lead them to becoming responsible citizens. EYFS will cover this within all aspects of the EYFS Curriculum, particularly in the PSED Prime Area and the Specific area of Understanding the World. This will be delivered daily through Key Person time and through focused and continuous learning.

Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2

Key Stage 1 and 2 will deliver drug education through the PSHE curriculum using the Lancashire County Council PSHE in the Primary Phase. The issue of Drug Education will be particularly covered in Unit 6 Keeping Safe Staying Safe and Feeling Safe, Unit 7, healthy Lifestyles and Unit 8 Drug Awareness. This will be integrated into the two-weekly timetable for discreet PSHE lesson, with KS1 and 2 children taking part in half hourly lessons one week then KS1 and 2 assembly the next week. Drug education will also be covered by visitors into school and trips to local authority arranged initiatives such as Crucial Crew.

See PSHE Long term overview in Curriculum Coordinator's file on the shared drive.

OUTSIDE AGENCIES

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School may use outside agencies to help delivery the drug education programme if the teacher ensures that the following criteria are met:

- The content and delivery of the programme has been jointly agreed.
- The programme and methods of delivery are consistent with the aims and objectives outlined in this policy.
- The Head Teacher has given approval for the use of the outside agency.
- CRB disclosure will be required from any person delivering drug education.

LINKS WITH PARENTS, THE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICE

Parents play a vital role in the prevention of drug misuse. They are involved in the planning of the school drug policy and they should be involved fully in the education of their child. This is especially so with the drug education programmes. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in homework tasks, and discuss drug issues with their child whenever possible. Parents are also aware of the school's procedures for dealing with drug related incidents via this policy which will be available on the school website.

The school endeavours to work closely with the local community to help reduce the number of drug related incidents.

THE ROLE OF THE HEAD TEACHER FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Head Teacher is responsible for the co-ordination of the arrangements to deal with individual cases of suspected or actual drug misuse, in conjunction with the PSHE co-ordinator. His role includes:

- Implementing procedures as outlined in this policy for dealing with an incident
- Receiving any substance found in school
- Liaison with the appropriate authorities on any drug related incident
- Liaison with outside agencies in relation to drug related incidents
- Reviewing and updating the school drug policy, when required

MONITORING AND EVALUATING

The school drug education policy is periodically reviewed to reflect changing circumstances and trends in drugs use. The programmes of study for drug education are continually reviewed and any changes deemed necessary are implemented.

The induction of new staff will include introduction to this policy.

The policy is available to parents if they request it

Appendix 1

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ALCOHOL MISUSE

The school premises are an alcohol free zone. The school does not allow any alcohol to be brought onto or consumed in school premises. This applies to visitors, staff and pupils.

Adults breaking this rule will be referred to the principal directly.
Pupils will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING TOBACCO MISUSE

The school premises are a smoke free area, with no one being permitted to smoke on school grounds.

Adults breaking this rule will be advised by other members of staff.

Pupils breaking this rule will be dealt with under the school's discipline policy.

HANDLING INCIDENTS

Action to be taken in the event of a suspected incident of drug misuse where the designated teacher for drug issues is the principal:

