



Drugs Education Policy at

St Michael in the Hamlet Primary School



Our school is a Rights Respecting School whereby all respect the United Nations Convention on the rights of the child and the responsibilities that come with those rights.

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 knowledge and information about 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.

Definition

At St Michael in the Hamlet 'drugs' include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:-

- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Medicines
- Illegal substances

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Drugs Education

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme through the Twinkl Life Scheme of Work.

Ethos

Drug education in our school aims to enable pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use, and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age and experience of our pupils.

Content

It is felt that drug education should start at least two to three years before the likely age of experimentation. Drug issues will be reinforced throughout the child's education, matching their increasing understanding and maturity.

Key Stage 1

Children should be introduced to ideas about how to keep healthy and the role of drugs as medicines.

Key Stage 2

Children should be introduced to the fact that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. They should also begin to be aware of the harmful effects on health of abuse of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

In line with these proposals drug education will be taught as part of the PSHE programme. This will be either within class topics or be specifically taught as and when appropriate. The drug education programme will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- explore attitudes and values around drug misuse.
- practise decision making skills.
- become aware of peer pressure.
- develop assertiveness skills.
- consider the consequences of risk taking.
- learn how to access sources of help and information.
- emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- evaluate media messages on drug use.

Use of visitors and outside speakers

Outside agencies may be involved in the planning and teaching of the drug education programme and will be asked to adhere to our school policy. We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local

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guidance. The class teacher is always present when visitors are working with our pupils.

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills (Health and Wellbeing/Living in the Wider World) is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Staff training and support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Head teacher, or other appropriate member of staff, will try to organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required. All staff need to understand and support the rationale and aims of drug education and be aware of the legal implications and their responsibilities

The role of the headteacher

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

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The Headteacher 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 Headteacher will monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

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 supporting 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.

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Managing drug related incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the school's commitment to:-

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs

The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff. The school's policy is that 'no individuals should be under the influence of drugs while on the school premises (within the school boundaries) unless a doctor's note indicates that this does not affect the individual's capacity to perform their duties, take care of children in their charge, or in the case of pupils, take part in lessons.

All incidents will be recorded in the incident monitoring log. All members of the school community are aware of these procedures and the implications for individuals. Each incident will be dealt with on an individual basis. Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the school's policy on Child Protection.

Monitoring and Review

- Senior staff are involved in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy are modified where appropriate.
- There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current Government guidelines

Reviewed: October 2021

Next review date: October 2022

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