

St Augustine's Catholic Primary School

Drugs Education Policy Statement

Agreed by Governors: July 2024

To be reviewed: March 2025

*As one family working together
to be the best that we can be,
we live, love and learn with Jesus.*

Introduction and Rationale

We believe that the Primary School can play an important part in helping children develop healthy lifestyles which can contribute to their long term health.

Aims

- to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school - this is important for all aspects of drug education and of particular importance in dealing with drug-related incidents
- to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle
- to teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, we aim to equip them with the social skills to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Objectives

- to promote children's self-esteem and confidence so they are able to make informed decisions about their lives
- 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 the moral question related to drug-taking and so provide a safe environment for young people to discuss their thoughts and ideas
- to enable children to respect their bodies and provide them with the skills they might need to avoid experimenting or encounter the misuse of drugs
- to persuade children who are experimenting with drugs to stop
- to enable pupils who are experimenting with drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to know where to obtain appropriate support
- to show that taking drugs is a moral issue and that choices about drugs are moral choices.

Teaching and Learning

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue, and we believe the opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy life occur throughout the curriculum. Drugs education is an important part of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship programme where children are taught at Key Stage One about the role of drugs as medicines and at Key Stage Two that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs have harmful effects. We also teach them about the misuse of drugs that can occur and the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

Curriculum Planning

The National curriculum subjects can serve as a vehicle for the teaching of drug education through promoting speaking and listening skills in discussion activity, to develop their moral understanding of issues surrounding drugs use and misuse, awareness of safety in the handling of drugs etc.

Role of the Headteacher

The Headteacher's role is to ensure the staff and the parents are informed of the drug education policy statement and that the policy is implemented effectively. The Headteacher will ensure staff are specifically trained and handle difficult issues with sensitivity.

Special Educational Needs

Drugs education is an important element of the Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship programme. All pupils are exposed to a programme tailored to meet their specific needs.

Equal Opportunities

All pupils regardless of gender, race and ability will have access to the programme of study.

Assessments

Assessments take place mainly through formal and informal discussion. However, the teacher may employ other forms of assessment techniques.

Resources

A variety of materials is available for use in school. Personal, Social and Moral Education and Citizenship resources are available. SCARF and Ten Ten resources are programmed for use across all year groups.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This policy will be reviewed regularly by staff and governors as required or if local or national directives are received.