

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Oxford



"Let us protect with love all that God has given us."

Drugs Policy

Definition of a drug:

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Catechism of the Catholic Church:

"Life and physical health are precious gifts entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of them, taking into account the needs of others and the common good."

Aims:

With this policy St Joseph's Catholic Primary School aims to:

- To ensure the school has a comprehensive approach to **drugs education**
- To ensure the school has a robust policy and procedure to **safeguard** children in the event of drug misuse
- To ensure staff are able to manage **drugs on the school premises** and any incidents which occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interest of those involved

External Guidance:

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School actively cooperates with and seeks support from other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services and OCC to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of drug use and misuses. In our planning and responses to drug issues we take careful account of local and national guidance, in particular 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools' (DfE, 2012).

Drugs education

Drugs education is covered in the PSHCE and Science curriculums at an age appropriate level - at KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines - At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects.

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling young people not only to know how to stay safe from substance misuse, but also to have the high self-esteem, resilience and interpersonal skills that enable them to stay safe and in control. These skills and qualities are reflected in all we do as a healthy school.

Drugs education (contd.)

It is our aim to help all pupils to:

- be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.
- recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential harm.
- know the appropriate and responsible care and management needed for all drugs and substances.
- understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects so that they are able to make informed choices.
- identify sources of help.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

It is appropriate that all children have access to the information covered in our drugs education programme. It should be noted that some children will need to use medication regularly as part of their own special needs. Care should be taken at all times to draw a distinction between different types of drugs use to enable children to see the value that drugs can have in our society.

Monitoring

The PSHCE co-ordinator will monitor planning and assessment as part of a rolling programme.

Safeguarding

All staff and any expert visitors to the school are subject to the school safeguarding policy and procedures. These are to be followed at all times.

Staff, pupils, volunteers and visitors to the school:

- may not consume alcohol on the school premises.
- may not come onto the premises if they are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement.
- may not come onto the premises if known to be in possession of alcohol or illegal substances.
- may not be under the influence of illegal drugs and alcohol, or use tobacco on the school premises, school journeys, work experience and residential trips.
- must be aware of any risk to their own and pupils' safety through the use of medicines and take appropriate action.

Where school staff suspects that there is transgression of these guidelines senior management should be informed immediately and appropriate action taken in-line with the safeguarding and other school policies.

At all times, safeguarding of the children remains the key factor in any decision made.

It is understood that during organised school social events, alcohol consumption is permitted – refer to section below "Alcohol Use on the School Premises".

If there is concern that parents/carers collecting a child may potentially place that child at risk the school can, in extreme circumstances, intervene in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy and the appropriate stakeholders would then be notified immediately.

Drugs on School Premises

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the premises is not acceptable except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to senior management.

Medicines on the School Premises

For procedures for taking medication at school and for taking medication as part of an Individual Healthcare Plan see the School policy for Access to Education for Pupils with Medical Needs and the Health and Safety Policy appendix i.

Pupils will never be prevented from accessing their medication in-line with the instructions prescribed. St Joseph's School cannot be held responsible for side effects that occur when medication is taken correctly.

Potentially Hazardous Substances / Medication on the School Premises

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances and medication are stored safely, reducing the risk of pupils having contact with them. An up to date COSHH form highlights potentially hazardous substances.

Smoking on the School Premises

Smoking is not permitted on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening or weekend events.

Alcohol Use on the School Premises

Alcohol may only be consumed on the school premises for events organised by staff, governors or Parents Association (organised school events), which take place after the end of the school day and only when an appropriate license has been obtained. The organisers are responsible for ensuring only those over 18 consume alcohol.

Health and Safety Checks

Health and safety checks of the school environment will ensure that any drug related equipment found, particularly syringes and needles, are cleared away safely and legally.

A copy of the policy is available online for staff and on the school website.

Date of policy: Spring 2017

Date for review: Spring 2020