

# **St Aidan's Church of England High School**

## **Drugs Education Policy**

### ***Definition of drugs***

A substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave. This policy refers to legal drugs including tobacco, alcohol, prescribed medicines and volatile substances, as well as "legal highs" ie Mephedrone and similar substances and all controlled (illegal) drugs.

### ***Drugs Education***

We recognise that, along with parents and others, the school can enable young people to understand how drugs can benefit and harm individuals and communities. Our school programme of health studies, in which drugs education is included, will seek:

- to enable young people to make responsible, healthy, informed choices about the role drugs might play in their lifestyle, by acquiring sound information, exploring attitudes and values and by developing effective decision-making and communication skill.
- to promote the self-esteem and sense of worth of every individual pupil irrespective of their academic abilities.
- to increase awareness and understanding of possible legal, social, economic and health consequences arising from the use and misuse of drugs.
- to enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate support

These aims are largely met through the programmes of study within the academic curriculum of the school and through the personal, social and health education in tutorial time, through the informal curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. Material used is differentiated to take account of pupils' age, ability, gender, maturity and special needs.

The work is delivered by mainly by teachers who have received additional training and support to take on this role. Where anyone from outside the school contributes to the programme of work they will do so in accordance with this policy and in line with LEA Guidelines for Outside Providers. We are committed as a school to continuing professional development and that staff are updated on current legislation and practices.

Pupil views and needs are sought through questionnaires and discussion with target groups.

Views of parents and governors are also sought through regular questionnaires.

### ***Alcohol***

Given the changes in drinking behaviour and the increased vulnerability of young people to the impact of alcohol misuse, we are extremely conscious of the importance of educating pupils about the effects of alcohol and dangers of misuse.

## ***Tobacco***

St. Aidan's operates a total no smoking policy on the school premises for all and in the close proximity to school for all pupils. We appreciate that smoking is single greatest cause of preventable illness and early death in the UK. Pupils' awareness of the health risks associated with smoking are raised in Science, English, RS and GCSE PE and the on-going ethos of the school is emphasised in assemblies.

## ***Vapes***

Vapes and the paraphernalia associated with vaping are not allowed on the school site or in any circumstances where the school has a remit.

## ***Medicines***

There may be occasions when it is necessary for a pupil to take medication at school. The School Nurse is able to store correctly labelled medications, either in a locked cupboard or a fridge, and administer them in the medical room. Some emergency use medicines may be carried by pupils, ie inhalers. Unprescribed pain relievers are not allowed to be stored in school.

Written permission from parents is needed if medication is to be taken/carried at school. Teachers' conditions of employment do not include giving medication or supervising a pupil taking it, although staff may volunteer to do this. Any member of staff who agrees to accept responsibility for administering prescribed medications to a pupil should have proper training and guidance, depending on the individual case.

## ***Programme of Study***

### **Year 7**

- Religious Studies - Valuing self and others, including health and drugs.

### **Year 8**

- English - Speaking and listening debate on smoking.
- Cragrats - Interactive work with pupils on alcohol and peer pressure / assertiveness.
- Science
  - The effects of alcohol and tobacco on healthy living.
  - The effect of smoking on the lungs and other body systems including chances of still birth and miscarriages.
  - Driving under the influence of alcohol.
  - The effects of alcohol on behaviour, reaction time, and its effect on the liver, diet and developing foetus.
  - The effects of drugs including over the counter drugs, prescription drugs, illegal drugs and caffeine, and to recognise that all drugs can have side-effects.

### **Year 9**

- Religious Studies - Temptation today, with specific focus on drug abuse. Consideration is given to types of drugs, reasons for abuse and strategies to try and resist peer pressure, including role-play.
- Science
  - The effect of smoking (carbon monoxide, nicotine, tar) on the lungs and other body systems Includes debates on typical questions such as ' why was smoking acceptable 30 years ago but less so now?' 'why can't people under 16 buy cigarettes?'

- The effect of alcohol on the body and effect of alcohol on the foetus.
- English - Drugs and smoking are included in the persuasive writing.
- 'Living Dangerously' when various aspects of healthy living including controlled drugs, and alcohol are covered in workshop activities.
- Tutorial work
  - Visiting speaker from alcoholics anonymous
  - Module on alcohol

## ***Roles and Responsibilities***

### **Headteacher**

Ultimately responsible for the policy, content and implementation; liaison with Governors, parents, teachers, LEA and other bodies including the media. Responsibility for deciding how drug-related incidents will eventually be dealt with.

### **Governors**

General responsibility for the curricular, pastoral and disciplinary aspects of the school. Support for drug-related in-service training and resources. Every effort will be made to enable Governors to raise their own level of awareness and understanding of drug issues.

### **Health Education Co-ordinator**

Co-ordinating and planning the delivery of the programme of drug education within the context of health education and the whole school curriculum.

### **Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)**

Responsibility of investigating drug related incidents and liaising with the Headteacher, other staff, parents, police, drug agencies and other appropriate individuals. Responsible for reviewing policy

## ***Drug related incidents***

These include drugs or paraphernalia found on the premises or persons, supplying of drugs (legal or illegal) in the school vicinity, pupils under the influence of a drug (including the misuse of a medicine), disclosure of own or others' drug use.

Any drug relate incident will be considered on its merits with due regard to balancing the interests of any individual involved with those of the wider school community.

In dealing with incidents the following should be taken into account:

### **Confidentiality**

Any school cannot offer total confidentiality to pupils but as far as is possible we will ensure that information provided is treated carefully and sensitively. The provider on any information will always be told what use is being made of it and their consent sought.

If a pupil discloses a confidence which is drugs related to a member of staff, then that member of staff **cannot** guarantee the pupil unconditional confidentiality. The member of staff must inform the designated member of staff – Mrs Soper or the Head – who will make a decision on the action to be taken

## ***Medical emergencies***

If the incident results in a medical emergency, medical assistance should be summoned immediately.

If drugs are found on the premises or on individuals, the drugs should be seized and stored temporarily in a secure location by the teacher or other adult member of staff finding them. The presence of a second adult witness is advisable. The designated person – the head teacher or pastoral deputy (Mrs Soper) should then be informed, who will begin further investigation.

### ***Police contact***

There is no legal obligation on a school to contact the police. However in any case of an alleged supply of a controlled drug the police will be informed. In other cases the school will determine whether to involve the police. It is a matter for the police if further action follows. Police on school premises, without either a parent knowing or being present, will not normally interview pupils. In the event of them so doing then a senior member of the school staff will be present.

### ***Parents***

Although there is no legal obligation on the school to inform parents if their son/daughter is involved in a drug related incident, the school will normally contact parents as soon as is reasonably practicable. We would expect to work with parents and the individual pupil to resolve any problems.

### ***Recording and reporting procedures***

(taking into account the Freedom of information Act 2000)

Incidents involving drugs are a matter for the pupil's school record and details will be kept on file.

### ***Sanctions***

There are a number of disciplinary sanctions available to the school in the case of drugs related incidents. These range from withdrawal from all extra curricular activities including school trips through to full exclusion from school. The severity of the sanctions taken will be determined in each individual case.