



Christ Church CE (C) Primary

Drug and Alcohol Education Policy – including the management of drug related incidents

A STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL POLICY

Rationale

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave.

This includes:

- all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances
- all over the counter and prescription medicines
- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

Drug education is an entitlement for all children and young people and is supported by Section 351 of the Education Act 1996 which requires every school, including Pupil Referral Units, to provide a balanced curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of adult life.

Drug education will be delivered through well planned PSHE and Citizenship provision. CCPS will use the non-statutory frameworks for PSHE and Citizenship and the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum.

Aim

To give children the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

Objectives

Drug and alcohol education:

1. Increases children 's **knowledge** and understanding and clarifies misconceptions about:
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs and alcohol
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs and alcohol
 - the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals, families and communities
 - the prevalence and acceptability of drug and alcohol use among peers
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs and alcohol

2. Develops children's personal and social **skills** to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

3. Enables children to explore their own and other peoples' **attitudes** towards alcohol, drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

Curriculum Content

Drugs education will be covered through PSHE, citizenship and science. Please refer to the PSHE overview for inclusion of drug education.

Medicines

There is a separate policy for the administration of medicines in school

Referral and External Support

The school will work with local partner agencies, e.g. police and social services, and the roles negotiated with them for supporting children and young people.

Dealing with drug and alcohol related incidents

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs (as designated by the head teacher) by **anybody** within school boundaries is unacceptable. This includes alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

Drug incidents could involve: suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

The physical boundaries of the school define the extent of the school premises during the school day and the school term. But school rules and expectations of behaviour extend further if children and young people e.g. visit a library, leave school to visit an old people's home as part of a community project, whether supervised or not.

School boundaries also extend to include school trips and clear guidance to staff is given about their supervisory responsibilities. It is made clear to children and young people that school rules still apply if they leave the school during the lunch break, and which will apply on a school trip abroad, where drug laws may differ. Staff are made aware of any controls on their own drug use (e.g. of alcohol, tobacco and medicines) when on duty.

Schools have no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police. Nevertheless, not informing the police may be counter-productive for the school and wider community. The police should, however, be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs. It will be at the Headteacher's discretion as to whether an incident is reported to the police or not.

The school works closely with the police and has an agreed protocol for reporting and disposing of illegal drugs.

The Headteacher will decide when:

- An incident can be managed internally by the school
- The police and First Response (Social Services) should be informed or consulted
- The police should be actively involved
- A child's name can be withheld and when it should be divulged to the police.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug, providing that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession, confiscating and disposing of suspected **illegal** drugs or other **unauthorised** drugs the school will: inform the police to ensure the correct disposal procedures are adhered to and act in accordance with the law.

Needles and syringes found within school boundaries will be dealt with in accordance with guidelines produced by Staffordshire County Council Health and Safety Team.

Searches

Where a search is considered to be appropriate, this will be at the discretion of the Headteacher, in response to reasonable information or suspicion.

In responding to drug incidents, the primary concern of the school is the care and welfare of children and young people. In cases of a medical emergency the school will act promptly to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the child and the school community.

Any incident involving the misuse of drugs will take into account:

- The age and maturity of the child
- What the child has to say
- The means by which the substance was acquired
- The intention of the child and the circumstances of the incident
- Method and frequency of use
- The nature and legal status of the substance involved
- Any previous incidents of drug misuse by the child
- Action being taken through the criminal justice system
- The availability of support for the child and family from other agencies

The school seeks to work in partnership with governors and parents to provide effective drug and alcohol education and support for children. Parents need to know that the school's drug and alcohol education programme will complement and support their role as parents and understand the school expectations and procedures for managing drug incidents. Governors have a role to play in agreeing policy and procedures.