



## **Drugs Education Policy for St Peter's Catholic Primary School** **January 2024**

***St. Peter's Catholic Primary School is at the heart of a Christ centered community where every person's uniqueness is celebrated & truly valued.***

***We promote caring, supportive relationships based on mutual respect, and nurture the partnership between home, school and parish. When we welcome the child, we welcome the family. We aim for excellence in all we do; to be the best that we can be.***

### **Inclusion Statement**

*Within our school we celebrate the diverse achievements and abilities of all pupils. We aim to provide within each subject the support, resources, opportunities and challenges to enable each child to achieve their full potential. We meet the needs of our children through:*

- *Planning opportunities that build upon and extend children's knowledge, experience and interests, and develop self esteem.*
- *Using a wide range of teaching strategies based on children's learning needs*
- *Providing a wide range of opportunities to motivate and support children to help them to learn effectively*
- *Providing a safe and supportive learning environment in which the contribution of all children is valued*
- *Using resources which reflect diversity and are free from discrimination and stereotyping*
- *Planning challenging activities for children whose ability and understanding are in advance of their peers*
- *Monitoring children's progress and taking action to provide support as necessary.*

### **Intent**

At St Peter's, we aim to equip the children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a safe and 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.

In accordance with these values, this policy aims to set out the school's approach to teaching and learning about drugs and St Peter's management of situations involving drugs. National guidance set out by the DfE and ACPO in 2012 has informed the policy for schools, and the Government Drug Strategy 2022.

### **The objectives of our drugs education programme are:**

- To provide children with knowledge and information about legal and illegal drugs and both the beneficial and 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 to 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 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.

## **Implementation**

Drugs education is a whole-school issue, and opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. If the need arises, class teachers will answer questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In Y6 science lessons we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. There is also science curriculum content on illegal drugs, as well as tobacco and alcohol education.

Drugs education is part of our PHSE provision and is taught using the Ten:Ten scheme of work. There are units in Key Stage Two about drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and about experiencing and resisting pressure from others.

Drugs education is a topic on the Year 6 visit from 'Safe Squad'.

Children are encouraged to ask questions and to reflect on the dangers of drug misuse. They explore issues such as why people take drugs and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. Children are given the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. Circle time is often used as a forum for discussing these issues sensitively. We encourage the children to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

As children move up the school, emphasis is placed on personal responsibility, and we aim to provide children with strategies to cope with potentially dangerous situations and to make sensible, informed decisions.

## **Drugs on School Premises**

St Peter's is a no-smoking site at all times.

Medicines are safely stored and administered according to our policy for 'Supporting Children with Medical Needs.'

At St Peter's Catholic Primary School, the wishes of parents are considered carefully. We strive to ensure that parents are aware of how we deal with drug issues. Year 6 parents are directed towards the electronic knowledge organiser as children begin their learning of this topic. School consulted with parents before the Ten:Ten scheme of work was implemented. Parents are signposted to the Ten:Ten portal to share in the curriculum content of this scheme.

Parents, carers and the police are contacted as soon as the school has evidence of the involvement of pupils with unauthorised drugs. If school has been made aware of possible involvement of pupils, but does not have evidence, then the procedures for Child Protection and Safeguarding will be followed. This may involve school contacting parents, carers and Children's Services in the best interests of the child.

There needs to be sensitivity to the possibility that parents or carers may themselves be involved with drug use in a way that raises issues of child protection and safeguarding.

## **Impact**

The school will do all that it can to ensure that children understand the importance of the misuse of drugs, medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and vaping materials, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances. It will make safe arrangements for dealing with any issues that arise from

such misuse and as part of our responsibility to promote pupils' wellbeing. This policy will be used in conjunction with our policies for Child Protection and Safeguarding, Behaviour, Staff Code of Conduct, Supporting Children with Medical Needs and with our procedures for Managing Medicines in Schools.

**To be reviewed January 2028**