



Drug Education Policy

Policy Start: Autumn Term 2018

Review Date: Autumn Term 2020 (*reviewed bi-annually*)

1. Position and Values

Drug Education at St Bartholomew's is addressed by the whole school community: staff, governors, parents/carers, and the wider local community. It is delivered consistent with the school's core values and Christian ethos, as well as integrated into well-planned lessons, where pupils feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary.

We aim to provide children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking and we aim to develop their personal social skills, enabling them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to their relationships with drugs in society.

2. Clarification of Terms

'A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way a person behaves, feels sees or thinks.' As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- Alcohol and tobacco;
- Volatile substances such as glues and aerosols, household cleaning products;
- Over the counter medicines' such as paracetamol for headaches;
- Prescribed drugs, such as inhalers, antibiotics and tranquilisers;
- Illegal drugs such as cannabis, LSD and ecstasy;

The school recognises that this policy focuses on drug education within the curriculum. Details of the school's policy on the storage and administration of medicines is contained in our 'Administrations of Medicines Policy'. Our management of medicines is designed to visibly and consistently reinforce our teaching and learning objectives on the safe use of medicines.

3. Aims and Objectives

We aim to provide pupils with opportunities to:

- ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.
- gain information and knowledge about the safe use of medical drugs under prescription;
- understand that many household products have a potential to harm our bodies if misused;
- gain information and knowledge about illegal recreational drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives (both health and social);
- show that taking illegal, recreational drugs is a moral issue and that choices around these are moral;
- enable the discussion of moral questions related to illegal drug taking within a safe and secure environment that allows for the sharing of thoughts and ideas;
- developing critical thinking as part of decision making
- become more self-confident so they are able to make sensible and informed decisions;
- establish abstinence/prevention as the main approach to substance misuse.
- provide guidance on the protocols to be used in suspected or real substance misuse.

- understand what they should do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- enable children to respect their own bodies and in doing so, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;

4. Teaching and Learning

We regard drugs education as a whole school issue and believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. By its nature drug education arises through both PSHCE Ed and Science and the moral choices surrounding drug education is taught through the PSHCE Ed. and RE curriculum. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons designed to promote a healthy lifestyle; lifestyle choices lessons are taught from early years, progressively building on the child's existing knowledge throughout Key Stages one and two.

The main focus on drugs and the misuse of illegal drugs is taught within Year Six, where children are taught about illegal drugs and the dangers connected to their use. In teaching drug education at this level we follow both National and County guidelines with advice and support from the Local Health Authority and Police. Within circle time sessions we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them within a safe environment, each class teacher can use this environment to answer questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately as they occur. In science lessons children can be taught about what a drug is and how medicinal drugs can be used beneficially to treat illnesses and diseases. They are taught the differences between legal, prescriptive and illegal drugs.

We aim to ensure all pupils reach a full understanding of the implications of lifestyle choices around drugs through the provision of varied opportunities. Appropriate teaching strategies and supporting materials will be employed for those with special educational needs to ensure they also meet and understand the learning objective.

Children may have varying needs regarding Drugs Education depending on their circumstances and background. The school strongly believes that all pupils should have access to education that is relevant to their particular needs. To achieve this, the school's approach to Drugs Education will take account of:

- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Varying home backgrounds
- Special educational needs Pupils who are assessed to be vulnerable will receive additional drug education support e.g. one to one support, additional sessions.

5. Recording and Assessment

The teaching styles used to approach sensitive subjects such as drug education relies on opportunities for children to ask questions and reflect upon their learning experience. Children do not have PSHCE Ed. books but may record knowledge in the form of group mind-maps, thought logs or illustration based records (i.e. posters). Teachers may also use teaching strategies such as drama and hot seating, in these cases records are taken from the teacher's own AfL.

6. Linked policies

This policy is reviewed by the PSHCE ed. Subject leader on a bi-annual basis or in response to a change in National/County guidance. The views of pupils and teachers who deliver the lessons are used to make changes and improvements to the subject area on an ongoing basis.

Due to its nature, the following policies are to be read in conjunction: PSHCE ed., Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Administrations of Medicines Policy.