

**Drugs Education Policy**

**September 2019**

**What is Drug education?**

For the purpose of this policy and our drugs education programme, drugs are defined as: *a substance people take to change the way they think, feel or behave*. Our school uses the term 'drug' to include, caffeine, alcohol, tobacco, medicines, illegal drugs and other substances such as solvents and poppers.

Drugs Education is part of Personal Social Health and Economic (PSHE) Education and should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

**Attitudes and values**

- Exploring, considering and understanding attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- Developing critical thinking as part of decision making
- Learning to respect & value difference & diversity
- Having structured opportunities for the exploration of personal attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use & drug users
- Exploring attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users

**Personal and social skills**

- Learning to manage emotions and relationships confidently and sensitively
- Learning to manage change
- Developing self-respect and empathy for others
- Learning to make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- Learning to make informed choices
- Exploring the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions & choices in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users
- Learning how to recognise and avoid exploitation and abuse
- Developing inter-personal skills
- Having opportunities to develop a self esteem
- Learning about themselves
- Learning about playing a positive and active role as citizens

**Knowledge and understanding**

- Learning about a safe & healthy lifestyle based on accurate information.
- Learning accurate information about drugs, drug use & drug users

- Having myths & misunderstandings about drugs, drug use & drug users dispelled
- Learning about seeking appropriate help & advice
- Learning about their community and the society of which they are a part in relation to drugs, drug use & drug users
- Developing pupils' understanding of rules and laws

### **Aims and Objectives of the Drug Policy**

- Promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviours towards good health
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- To foster and develop self esteem
- To explore and understand accurate information
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To widen understanding about health and social issues
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support

### **Why do we need a drug education policy?**

We are committed to investing in our pupil's health and well-being, because we believe doing so will assist children in becoming well rounded individuals. Drugs education is an important issue that is both essential and relevant to children in the real world. Through our approaches to drugs education we are seeking to develop and enhance life skills that can be built on and which will support children in making future decisions.

### **How is drug education provided?**

Drugs education at St Saviours Academy is taught within weekly PSHE lessons. PSHE lessons are taught throughout the school and every child will have the opportunity to learn about drug education in an age appropriate way, whether that be on the scale of medicinal counter medication to illegal drugs.

### **Answering and Asking Questions**

- In most cases teachers will attempt to answer children's questions and concerns in a sensitive, age and development appropriate manner. Individual teachers will use their skill and discretion in these situations and if necessary refer to the PSHE Co-ordinator for advice and support. Teachers will also follow the following guidance:
  - Teachers will establish clear parameters about what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole-class setting
  - If a child's question is inappropriate to address with the whole class the teacher should acknowledge the question and attend to it later on an individual basis
  - Teachers will set the tone by speaking in a matter-of-fact way and ensuring that pupils discuss issues in a way encourages positive participation

- Pupils may have opportunities to write down questions anonymously and post them in a question box. The teacher will have time to prepare answers to questions before the next session, and can choose not to respond to any questions which are inappropriate to address in whole class lessons
- Parents will be informed if a question or comment is of concern.

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school's drugs education program of study is designed to promote the achievement of our aims and to ensure that the children have equal access to them, inclusive of every child.

To achieve this, the school's approach to Drugs Education will take account and be differentiated if appropriate of:

- Ethnic and cultural diversity
- Varying home backgrounds
- Special educational needs

Pupils who are assessed to be vulnerable and when necessary, children will receive additional PSHE support e.g. one to one support, additional sessions.

### **Confidentiality**

Teachers and staff cannot and should not promise total confidentiality in drug related issues. This should be made clear to pupils. However requests for confidentiality should be honoured unless this is not possible in relation to:

- Child protection or safeguarding
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referring to an external agency.

Every effort should be made to secure a pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information: it should only be in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, where possible the school should inform the pupil first and explain why this needs to happen – e.g. where there is a child protection issue or a life is in danger.

Reviewed by  
B Stephenson  
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