



Archbishop Ilsley Catholic School

SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

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Aims and Objectives

The school's first priority is the welfare of our pupils. We are committed to the highest standards in protecting and safeguarding the children entrusted to our care at all times. The aims of this policy are:

- to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school in drugs education and particularly in dealing with drug related incidents.
- to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

The key objectives of the policy are:

- to express and clarify the school's attitude and approach for staff, pupils, parents and prospective parents;
- to promote pupils' self-esteem and confidence;
- to support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and wellbeing of all staff and pupils;
- to give accurate and current information about substances;
- to enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices and become responsible for their choices;
- to provide pupils with the skills they might need to avoid the misuse of drugs;
- to persuade those who are experimenting with, or misusing drugs to stop;
- to give pupils the knowledge of how and where to get appropriate help and support.

What is a Drug?

A drug is defined as a substance that can change the way a human body works, either physiologically or psychologically. This policy will encompass all drugs:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Other legal drugs, e.g. caffeine
- Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicine
- Volatile substances, e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol.
- Illegal drugs, e.g. cannabis, LSD, ecstasy, heroin

How is Drug Education taught in the school?

Drug education is most effective as part of a wider, personal, social and health education programme.

Drug education is specifically mentioned in the National Curriculum guidelines for Science where pupils are taught

- **at Key Stage 3 that the abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affects health, that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange;**
- **at Key Stage 4 about the effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions**

Drug education is also taught in PSHE lessons as part of a wider programme of health education. Programmes of study included work on tobacco, alcohol, prescribed and illegal drugs and aims to provide pupils with accurate and up to date information. This is taught in context with opportunities for pupils to improve their self-esteem, look at choices and decision making, taking responsibility, being confident and assertive and knowing when and where to seek help.

A range of other subjects offer opportunities to enhance the teaching of drug education within school, for example:

RE helps pupils to:

- **develop their understanding of moral issues**
- **develop skills to express their own views clearly**
- **consider the individual, social and moral consequences of an action**

English helps pupils to:

- **explore relevant issues through literature**
- **develop communication skills**
- **develop interpersonal skills through drama and role play**
- **make considered use of a range of reference materials**

Design and Technology helps pupils to:

- **develop an awareness of safety, hazards and risks**
- **use information sources to assess the risks of unfamiliar materials**
- **take responsibility for the consequences of their own actions and those of others**

Geography helps pupils to:

- **develop an understanding of the social, economic and environmental effects of drug production**
- **consider the impact of drug-related activities (including crime) on localities**

Physical Education helps pupils to:

- **develop positive attitudes towards health**
- **develop safety awareness**

In the delivery of drug education across the curriculum a variety of styles and teaching methods are employed including whole class group and individual work, drama, role-plays, simulation games, videos, discussion and debate. Outside agencies may be used (e.g. Life Education, Catalyst Theatre in

Education) but only when the content of any work has been viewed by the Drug Education Co-ordinator and is deemed to be in line with the whole school drug policy.

Staff Training

All staff will be made aware of the opportunities for training. Whole staff drug training will be updated when appropriate. Teachers of PSHE and Science will be offered the opportunity to update their knowledge and skills when appropriate courses become available.

The school drug policy will be made available to staff, governors and parents in the School Handbook.

The policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the designated school drug Co-ordinator.

The following were consulted for guidance:

Framework for a Drugs PolicyKathy Bird (HEU)
National Curriculum (Science and PSHE/Citizenship) 2000
Drug Education and the management of drug related incidents (BCC and HEU) 1999

Managing drug related incidents

At Archbishop Ilsey school we do not condone the misuse of drugs, including alcohol. We are committed to tackling drug misuse amongst young people and any instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Our guiding principles are:

- the safety and welfare of all pupils and staff;
- the welfare of the individual pupil deemed to be at risk;
- the law concerning drugs;

Archbishop Ilsey is a no-smoking building at all times, including evening use. A separate room has been designated for smokers that can be used for no other purpose.

Alcohol and tobacco are only allowed on the premises in the possession of adults.

Alcohol is only permitted to be drunk by staff at school, on social occasions, when no pupils are on the premises.

Pupils are not allowed to be in possession of, or use alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drug at any time.

Pupils found smoking on the premises will be placed in school detention and a letter sent home to parents. A further infringement will result in fixed term exclusion.

A teacher/adult suspecting that a pupil is in possession of or under the influence of drugs will:

- 1) Contact the relevant Head of Year/SMT (if the pupil is in class this will be a member of the SMAC team).**
- 2) The pupil will be taken to the medical room and the Headteacher informed.**
- 3) If any pupil is thought to be 'under the influence' medical help will be sought and first aid given (school nurse).**
- 4) Every effort will be made to secure the voluntary production of such drugs. A search will be carried out, with the pupils consent, in the presence of a witness. School property such as lockers will be searched.**
- 5) Advice may be sought from the Health Education Unit (303-8200) and/or the School's Police Liaison Officer.**
- 6) Any substance confiscated will be placed in the school safe.**
- 7) Parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible.**
- 8) Each incident will be considered independently and a range of sanctions applied accordingly.**
- 9) Pupils found to be dealing or supplying drugs to others will be permanently excluded.**
- 10) A record of the incident will be kept -see attached proforma. This will be placed in the incident log kept in the school safe.**
- 11) If criminal behaviour is involved we will contact the Police Schools' Liaison Officer for advice.**
- 12) We will advise parents/carers of additional support the family may want.**

For further clarification please send the attached flow diagram