

St. Michael's Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery

Policy on Drugs, Solvent and Alcohol Abuse

1. In formulating and applying this policy, the Academy Committee and Staff of St Michael's Catholic Academy seek to promote and implement in relevant ways the aims and intentions of the Mission Statement, '*Praise the Lord in Work, Play and Prayer*', that has been agreed by the whole Academy community.

1.1. This policy is aimed at all staff, pupils, parents/carers, members of the Academy Committee and agencies working with the school. We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work. We regard the presence of unauthorised drugs on our premises as unacceptable and a threat to our health and safety.

1.2. This policy works in conjunction with DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools and the Academy's Health & Safety and Child Protection Policies and Personal and Social Education curriculum. Due regard will be taken of these policies when dealing with any related incidents.

2. Classification of controlled drugs

2.1. There are many ways in which the full spectrum of substances dangerous to health can

be categorised. It is not just solvents and controlled drugs which are harmful to health: tobacco and alcohol are equally as dangerous and will be seen as part of the total problem related to substance abuse.

2.2. Within controlled drugs there are three categories, Category A carries the greatest penalties in law and Category C the least.

3. Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- 3.1. clarify the Academy's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, parents or carers, and all involved with the Academy and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities;
- 3.2. give guidance to staff on drugs education that may be included in the curriculum;
- 3.3. safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school;
- 3.4. enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

4. Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- 4.1. all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- 4.2. all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- 4.3. all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

5. Responsibilities

The Principal will:

- 5.1. ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs policy;
- 5.2. ensure that the policy is implemented effectively;
- 5.3. manage any drug-related incidents;

- 5.4. ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity;
- 5.5. liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme;
- 5.6. monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to the Academy Committee, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

The Academy Committee will:

- 5.7. establish general guidelines on drugs education;
- 5.8. support the Principal in following these guidelines;
- 5.9. inform parents and carers about the drugs education policy and listen to their views;
- 5.10. liaise with relevant organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- 5.11. support the Principal in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions.

6. Objectives of drugs education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- 6.1. build on knowledge and understanding;
- 6.2. provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings;
- 6.3. explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs;
- 6.4. develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem;
- 6.5. ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, matched to their age group and their prior understanding, and following guidelines that have been agreed by the Academy Committee acting with input and advice from staff.

7. Drugs education

Drugs education is a whole-school issue. Opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science, PSHE and citizenship, RE and PE.

- 7.1. Teaching about drugs will begin in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.
- 7.2. In Key Stage 2, pupils will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.
- 7.3. We acknowledge that by the time pupils are in Year 6, some of them may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.
- 7.4. We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together, and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and

we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced.

- 7.5. We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers.
- 7.6. Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time, as and when the curriculum presents relevant opportunities.

8. Prescribed Medication at the Academy

- 8.1. Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into school unless prior arrangement has been made with the Principal.
- 8.2. Where children have medical needs, parents and carers must give us details of the child's condition and medication. Parents and carers will bring the medication to school in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely in a designated location.

9. Legal Drugs

- 9.1. Legal drugs are allowed in school only when authorised by the Principal. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the premises of the Academy.
- 9.2. Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand.

10. Cleaners and Solvents

Only approved cleaning agents will be kept and used on the Academy's premises. These will be stored securely in the cleaners' room or other locked storage area

11. Responding to drugs incidents

- 11.1 If a pupil is thought or be affected by their use of a drug the first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.
- 11.2 Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart.
- 11.3 Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, pending the arrival of the police; the precautions taken must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.
- 11.4 Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.
- 11.5 Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags, trays, etc.
- 11.6 The Principal will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.
- 11.7 A full record will be made of any incident.
- 11.8 The Principal will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

12. The role of parents and carers

The primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

To promote this objective, we will:

12.1 inform parents or carers about the school drugs policy, so that the parents/carers can support the key messages being given to children at school.;

12.2 answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school;

12.3 take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or the Academy Committee about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school;

12.4 encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the school policy, and making modifications to it as necessary;

12.5 If an incident concerning unauthorised drugs occurs in school, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents or carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

12.6 Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

13. Monitoring and review

The Academy Committee will review the drugs policy on an annual basis. The Committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents and carers about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded. The Academy Committee requires the Principal to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drugs education programme taught in this school.

Signed: _____ (on behalf of the Academy Committee)

Date: