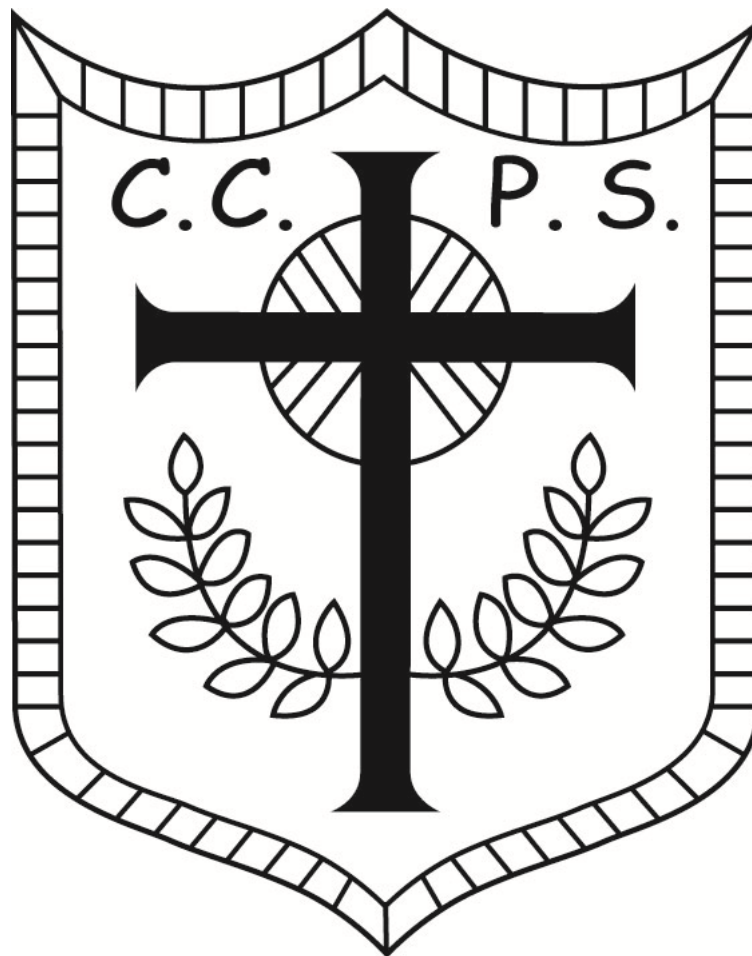


Cotgrave Church of England Primary School



DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

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| Reviewed | Summer 2011 | Spring 2018 | | |
| | Summer 2012 | Spring 2020 | | |
| | Spring 2014 | Spring 2022 | | |
| | Summer 2015 | Spring 2023 | | |
| | Spring 2017 | Spring 2024 | | |



Cotgrave Church of England Primary School

Drug Education Policy

Actions for Governors:

The responsibility of the Governing Body is:

- To contribute to generating and updating this policy;
- To support the Head Teacher in overseeing the Drug Education curriculum;
- To review practice.

Introduction and Context

This policy is for all staff, pupils, parents/carers, prospective parents/carers, governors, visitors and partner agencies working within school.

Schools have an important role to play in helping them to deliver the government's National Drugs Strategy - Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain (HMSO 1998). This includes helping young people to resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society - Drug Alcohol & Tobacco Education (QCA 2003). The strategy aims to reduce the harm that drugs cause to society and to prevent today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problematic drug users. Schools clearly have a crucial role to play in educating young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. 'Every drug, whatever its legal or social status, has the potential to cause physical or other harm. It is this, and the fact that such a wide and changing variety of drugs is commonly and extensively available, that makes it vital for children and young people to receive relevant drug education.' - Quality Standards in Drug Education - the Right Approach (DrugScope 1999)

As a school we are dedicated to the continual development of a 'healthy school' and have addressed whole school needs in relation to drugs issues and education. In accordance with National Healthy School Status we wish to work towards this in all aspects of school life, and provide an environment, ethos and curriculum that support and prepare pupils for making positive, healthy choices in a drug-using world. We promote positive relationships within our school and between the school and the wider community.

Drug Education should be delivered through PSHE and Citizenship and fulfil the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum Science Order. It should start in primary schools and develop in line with DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (DfE/ACPO 2012).

Policy Development

We encourage parents' involvement in developing and reviewing this policy and in their child's drug education. A drug education open evening will be held prior to specific Drug Education teaching programmes, when we will discuss the content and implementation of the drug education policy and programme. We encourage parents/carers to approach the school to discuss issues or share concerns at any time. This can be done by appointment with the Head Teacher as appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies and for:

- Policy development and review, involving pupils, staff, governors, parents/carers and relevant local agencies;
- Implementing the policy, and monitoring and assessing its effectiveness in practice;
- Ensuring evaluation takes place and that this informs policy review;
- Ensuring coordination and coherence of drugs education;

- Managing drug related incidents and situations;
- Ensuring the overall health, welfare and well being of all pupils is taken into account;
- Establishing and coordinating links with external agencies;
- Cross-phase liaison with other primary or secondary school to promotes a smooth transition;
- Accessing and coordinating training and support for staff.

Definitions

Drugs: This policy encompasses all illicit drugs, volatile substances (solvents), over the counter and prescription medicines, alcohol, tobacco and other legal drugs eg caffeine. This policy will apply to any new trends involving different drugs and substance use, which have the potential to cause harm to young people eg e-cigarettes.

School Boundary: The school boundary is defined by the fence line at the front of the building and the boundary fence along the sides and the back of the building.

This policy, in line with all other school rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but on all school visits, including residential and those made outside of normal school hours. It should be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school if appropriate.

Drug Education in the Curriculum

Section 351, Education Act 1996, requires every school to provide a balance curriculum which:

- a) Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils
- b) Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

There is a statutory requirement for Drugs Education in the National Curriculum Science Order, 2014.

As part of its care for the welfare of its pupils this school views Drugs Education as a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every pupil. We therefore provide Drug Education as an explicit, planned component of PSHE and Citizenship as securing learning opportunities across other curriculum subjects and through off-timetable activities.

Aims of Drug Education

We aim to enable our pupils to make healthy, informed decisions by increasing their understanding of drugs issues and developing the appropriate skills and attitudes to assist them in making positive choices. Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

- Provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs;
- Understand that certain people, with particular medical needs will use medication as part of their every day life and that this is normal for them;
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse, exploring the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions;
- Raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs;
- Explore and clarify attitudes towards drugs, drug use and misuse and drug users, correcting misunderstandings, promoting positive attitudes and challenging harmful ones;
- Develop pupils understanding of rules and laws;
- Develop and practise the personal and social skills necessary to make informed decisions in a range of social situations and settings;
- Develop pupils' self-awareness and self-esteem as this may support them in making positive choices about their health;
- Ensure that all members of the school community can identify sources of appropriate personal support;
- Ensure relevance for the needs of pupils and the school community.

Teaching Methods

Our teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our pupils and will be sensitive to their age and experience. Teaching methods adopted in the classroom:

- Offer a rich variety of opportunities for active learning;
- Incorporate a range of teaching and learning styles including group discussions, debates, role play;
- Ensure access to comprehensive, unbiased and accurate drug information;
- Specify availability of relevant and appropriate advice and support;
- Ensure continuity and progression by visiting and revisiting issues as pupils develop and their needs change;
- Consider the attitudes and values of pupils and a range of other significant groups in society, towards drugs.

Due to the sensitive and sometimes controversial nature of the subject, ground rules will be discussed, negotiated and adopted. Confidentiality is achieved through setting ground-rules or a group agreement at the beginning of the session to ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum.

The school appreciates the valuable contribution from outside agencies, but recognises that their contribution alone does not constitute a complete Drug Education Programme. The content of visitors' contributions will be carefully negotiated and a teacher will always be present during their input.

Our Drugs Education programme is supported by:

- DART Yr 5/6;
- Family Week.

Assessing, Monitoring and Reviewing Drug Education

Pupils' knowledge-level will be assessed prior to any Drug Education input to ensure appropriateness of content and determine relevance to pupils. These assessments will be used in the formal evaluation of our Drugs Education Programme.

Pupils will have regular opportunities to feedback their views and reflect on what they have successfully learned, how useful they consider this learning to be, what needs they feel they still have and what changes they would recommend.

Smoking Policy (see separate Smoke Free Policy)

Smoking in the workplace is a health and safety issue and under no circumstances is smoking permitted on any part of school premises. This reflects the NCC 2016 Smoke Free Policy, Smoke-Free Legislation (The Health Act, 2007). Signage around school reminds pupils, staff and visitors of this policy.

All members of the school community are requested not to smoke in the vicinity of the school, outside of the school boundaries, in line with national and local smoke-free policies. Staff, as positive role models, should take a responsible attitude in promoting smoke-free lifestyles to pupils. On no occasion should staff smoke in the company of pupils, including off-site visits and residential.

This school is committed to reducing and preventing the uptake of smoking among the school community, including pupils, parents/carers and staff. Information is displayed on the hall windows for anybody wishing to stop smoking.

The use of E-Cigarettes is not allowed on the school site. Whilst recognising that electronic cigarettes are widely acknowledged as being less harmful than tobacco and that they can be part of the process of stopping smoking for some smokers, a complete ban from school premises is the simplest way to ensure a consistent school message on smoking.

Alcohol Policy

The use of alcohol by all members of the school community is prohibited except for occasional adult functions out of school hours, at which no children or young people are present. Functions involving the use of alcohol take place three times during the school year: Christmas Fayre, School Disco and Summer Fayre. Further functions would be agreed in advance by the Governing Body.

Prizes from raffles or tombolas in which alcohol has been donated will only be given to adults over the age of 18. Under no circumstance will a person under the age of 18 years be given alcohol as a prize. Any alcohol brought into school must be stored in a safe place that is neither visible nor accessible to pupils eg. locked cupboard, staff room or school office.

Taking all of the above into consideration, it is this school's policy that alcohol will not be consumed by any staff members (including helpers) or pupils on any off-site visit including residential. In the event that alcohol is permitted on a residential visit by direct permission of the Head Teacher, at least one member of staff will remain alcohol free at any given time.

Policy on Volatile Substances

In addition to health and safety regulations which keep the school environment safe from all solvents, glues or gasses (such as lighter fuel or aerosols), any potential intoxicants must not be brought onto the school premises by any pupil. Pupils are discouraged from bringing aerosols (eg deodorants) into school or on school trips. Any confiscated volatile substances will be disposed of safely or returned to parents/carers if appropriate. Any incidents involving the supply of solvents or solvent abuse will be dealt with as any other drug-related incident. We recognise that in the event of a medical emergency relating to volatile substances the situation may be compounded if the casualty is panicked.

Responding to Drug-related Incidents

The school will consider each drug-related incident or situation individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community. Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed, in the event of perceived risk to themselves and/or others.

School managers have a responsibility to prevent illegal drug use and could be liable under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 if they do not take action where illegal drug taking or supplying is knowingly permitted on the premises.

This school will not condone or tolerate the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs anywhere on the school premises. Any sanctions enforced will reflect the seriousness of the incident and will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions.

After immediate medical needs have been addressed, the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved. The school will follow the procedure outlined in the Responding to Incidents Flowchart. Careful recording of each stage of the management of incidents will be made on the Responding to Incidents Form.

Needles and Substance Use Paraphernalia

We will do our best to ensure that the school premises are safe and have identified safety procedures in the rare event that a syringe or needle or other substance-using equipment are found discarded on or close to the school premises. These procedures are:

- Make area safe in accordance with the procedure outlined in the Responding to Incidents Flowchart;
- Contact Local District Council to collect: 0115 9819911 or 0115 9811143 - out of hours

Support and Information

We will provide all members of the school community with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drugs issues. We recognise that any person misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency. Pupils will be told where they can go for confidential help and advice. Up to date information on local drugs support services will be made accessible for all members of the school community.

Inclusion, Equality and Safeguarding

We are committed to careful consideration of risk factors for vulnerable children who might be at greater or significant risk of harm and will seek alternative provisions for such pupils where appropriate. This includes pupils whose parents/carers misuse substances, including alcohol, which impacts on the emotional health and well-being of their children.

This school fully endorses the view that exclusion blights the lives of thousands of children, often those most in need of education. Many pupils excluded from school never get back into mainstream education, making it more likely that they will be excluded from society later in life, at a cost to both society and the individual's concerned. There is strong evidence to suggest that excluded pupils are at a greater risk of becoming involved in drug use. This school is therefore committed to maintaining the inclusion of all its pupils wherever possible and would only use exclusion as a last resort after a range of alternatives have been ineffective. .

In the event of concerns around safeguarding, the supporting adult will follow the school's Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, with which all school staff are familiar. Sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the rights and needs of individuals. This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parents/carers. Where information has to be 'shared' the reasons for this will be explained to the child/young person who will be supported throughout the process.

Under the Freedom of Information Act (2005) everyone has the right to information held by schools, however information might be withheld to protect various interests, which are allowed for by the Act. In such instances, the reasons for withholding information must be disclosed.

Responding to the Media

As drug-related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised not to respond to journalists and should refer all enquiries to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher will make a considered response and, if necessary, seek assistance from the Local Authority Press Office.

Review

All policies are subject to periodic evaluation and update.

Reviewed Spring Term 2024

Appendix 1: DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for School, 2012.