

St Nicolas' Church of England Voluntary Aided
Combined School



Drugs Education Policy

St Nicolas' Church of England School Vision

Jesus said 'I am the vine and you are the branches'

Our school is rooted in the Christian Faith. Nourished by God, we want to grow together drawing on His strength to live out our Christian values so that we can reach out to others in our community.

We are all unique and together with God we want to be the best that we can be. As we learn together in a supportive and nurturing school, we will thrive and be ready to face the challenges of life.

Our Christian Values:

Love/Friendship

Respect

Honesty

Courage

Thankfulness

Peace

Date of Policy: Autumn 2022

Review Date: Autumn 2025

Members of staff responsible:

Head teacher, Deputy Head, PSHE Lead, Curriculum Committee

We recognise the impact of the increase in drug use in society. It is important that children understand and know the effects of drugs on themselves and others.

The term '**drug**', throughout this document, includes **medicines** as well as **tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues**. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

We have ensured that the Drugs Education Policy is part of the Personal Social and Health Education Policy and links with other relevant school policies including the policies on Sex and Relationships Education, Health and Safety, Confidentiality, Child Protection, Diversity, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Equality and Cohesion, E-safety, and the Internet.

The Purpose of Drug Education

The purpose of drug education is to give pupils information about drugs and help them develop the skills and attitudes to make healthy and safe decisions about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and medicines.

School Aims

We aim through our drug education programme to give children the facts, appropriate to their age and understanding, and to show the importance of a healthy life style, so that they can make the right choices in the future.

We are committed to **equal opportunities** and we recognise that children with **learning difficulties** may need further support during drug education. Where children are taking prescribed medication, we distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

At St Nicolas we hope

- to promote pupils' self-esteem, confidence, health and emotional wellbeing.
- to give accurate information about drugs.
- to consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- to provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practise the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- to help pupils to distinguish different drugs/medicines, consider their use misuse, benefits and harm.
- to minimize the harm from drugs to pupils.

Curriculum organisation and provision, planning, teaching and resources

Drug education is taught through PSHE. This takes place each week from Year R – Year 6. Our main resource is Coram Scarf. Drug Education is also taught as part of the Science National Curriculum program of study to the designated year groups.

PSHE is delivered within a whole school approach with all classes following the same themes throughout the year, appropriate to their year groups. Drug education is incorporated in the program units below.

Autumn Term	Me and My Relationships	Valuing Difference
Spring Term	Keeping Myself Safe	Rights and Responsibilities
Summer Term	Being My Best	Growing and Changing

All classes establish clear ground rules to ensure that pupils discuss opinions with respect and listen to one another.

A wide variety of styles and approaches are used when teaching drug education – class discussions, paired and small group work, brainstorming, use of drama and role-play, use of puppets and stories, use of IT. We draw on resources from the LEA, organisations, and from the local police community officers through talks.

Assessment and Recording

Children are informally assessed by staff throughout their work. Recording of work will be in a form appropriate to the planned focus. A class book will show the evidence of drugs Education as part of PSHE in a variety of forms e.g. photographs as well as children's comments, illustrations and written work. The very nature of Drugs Education within PSHE means that careful consideration is given to the best means of recording. Written work may not always be appropriate and staff will use their professional judgment in this.

Monitoring

- PSHE Lead monitors Drugs Education as part of the PSHE planning/teaching.
- Formative class assessment of learning through PSHE activities and the Class PSHE Book.
- Subject Leader report and ownership of leading developments in Drugs Education as part of PSHE.

Resources

Coram scarf programme - SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship)

St Nicolas' Drug Education program outline

PSHE Association resources

Growth Mindset programme – Class Dojo

Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education

Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers -DfE

Managing drug related incidents

We recognise that drug related incidents in primary schools are rare but recognise that clear procedures need to be in place should an incident occur. In all cases the headteacher and the designated safeguard lead/deputy is informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency, the school will immediately call for medical assistance. All members of staff are first aid trained.

Pupil discipline and support

The Headteacher will be responsible for deciding the follow up to a drug related incident, considering all the factors influencing the incident. The behaviour policy will be followed.

Confidentiality

The wellbeing of children will be central to our policy and practice. However, members of staff cannot promise total confidentiality. This is made clear to pupils through the PSHE programme. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. If members of staff have any concerns about the wellbeing of children, they must inform the Head teacher and/or the designated safe guarding lead/deputy.

Removal of an illegal drug and its disposal

School staff will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being illegal for the purpose of protecting our pupils from harm.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will encourage the pupil to voluntarily give up the drug. If the pupil refuses, the Headteacher/Deputy may decide to contact the parents or the school police community officer. The parents will be informed if the police are called. Our primary concern is the wellbeing of all pupils, considering the range of factors, and acting accordingly. It may be necessary to inform other appropriate agencies, as a matter of safeguarding.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal and will be removed and secured until it is taken to a pharmacist for disposal or handed to the police as soon as possible. We will ensure that another member of staff is present when disposing of any drug. We will decide the best course of action and follow the Child Protection policy. A written record of the incident and the action taken will be made.

All staff are vigilant in and around the site. Any evidence of drug misuse will be reported and procedures followed for its removal and disposal for the safety of our pupils

Drug related incidents involving parents

Our school rules for drugs apply to all people who are on the school premises and we expect that parents/carers will adhere to these rules. If a parent/carer comes to school and appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. If they have come to collect their child, we will sensitively offer to phone for someone else to come and collect the child. If we are concerned that the child is at risk then we will follow the Child Protection procedures.

Needs of pupils

We are sensitive to the needs of pupils whose parent/carers or family members may have problems with drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected or a pupil discloses problems, we will assess the pupils' welfare and support needs and if needed, involve external support for the child and, where appropriate, for the family.

Smoking including e-cigarettes

We are a smoke free school and staff, parents, pupils and visitors are not allowed to smoke anywhere on school premises or in sight of the school.

Management of authorised legal drugs**Medicines**

Please see the Medicines policy.

Hazardous chemicals and volatile substances (solvents)

Arrangements for the secure and safe storage of chemicals e.g. for cleaning are set out in the Health and Safety Policy.

Alcohol

There are occasions when alcohol is authorised at school during parents' events and staff social events.