



Forming lives ready to face the future

Drug Education and Incident Policy		
Date	Review Date	Coordinator
September 2018	September 2019	M Ryan

This policy seeks to ensure:

- That young people in our school receive common messages about the inappropriateness of drug misuse;
- That drug related incidents are addressed throughout our school in a consistent manner.

Rationale

Young people are growing up in an increasingly drug using world. During their early childhood they are exposed to messages about drug use from the media, their peers, their families and our wider society. They may experiment with drugs whilst still of school age and will be confronted by opportunities to use drugs throughout their lives.

If we are to prepare our children for living in a 'drug-using world', we need to ensure all pupils in St. Patrick's RC Primary School receive an appropriate curriculum matched to their needs.

We recognise that many aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling pupils not only to know how to stay safe from substance misuse, but also have the high self-esteem and interpersonal skills that enable them to stay safe and in control.

Welfare

"We define drug misuse to be the taking of a substance which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual, or of other individuals, or society at large, or which is illegal. Within this definition can be placed the use of legal substances such as alcohol, solvents, the use of prescribed medicines and the taking of illegal drugs."
(Adapted from the Royal College of Psychiatrists 1987 – County Child Protection Guidelines)

Problems with drug use can affect any of our pupils. This can range from:

- Accidental exposure to a substance (medicines) or drug equipment (discarded needles);
- Inappropriate experimental or recreational use of a drug;
- Developing a drug habit (losing control of their drug use);
- A sudden, catastrophic health problem (collapse);
- Living in drug using families.

In all cases our guiding principle will be that:

The welfare of the young person and his/her peers is paramount.

Confidentiality

Whilst every effort should be made to enable constructive dialogue to take place between pupils requiring support and school staff, no staff member can agree to offer complete confidentiality. All staff are subject to child protection procedures.

Staff responsibility

- Our Child Protection Officer is M Ryan. Any issue relating to drug misuse should be reported according to our child protection policy.

The Taught Curriculum

Education about drugs is taught both as part of the Science Curriculum and through PSHCE.

Our curriculum will be delivered in the following ways:

- Through classroom lessons, it will take account of the pupil's current level of understanding.
- As part of a spiral programme of personal, social, moral and health education, it will build on concepts that the pupils already know and understand. It will link with work on safety, relationships and communication skills. Pupils will have opportunities to discuss, have challenged and clarify their attitudes and beliefs about drug use.
- It will use language appropriate to their age and readiness.
- It will be relevant to the backgrounds and needs of pupils and will focus on the drug use and surrounding issues most relevant to the pupils.
- It will offer accurate rather than sensationalised information, including the legal repercussions of using banned drugs.
- Whilst exploring the possible consequences of drug misuse, it will avoid 'shock/horror' which can serve to glamorise drug use.
- It will ensure that all pupils regardless of background and ability can equally access the programme of work.

The school will work to inform parents in order to ensure that messages about drug misuse are consistent.

Where possible we will seek to work with our local education authority to harmonise our provision of drugs education to ensure that our pupils receive the best possible drug education.

All visitors to our classrooms will work to these principles.

All staff have a duty to support young people who approach them with problems related to drug use. Prior to any further investigation such an approach should be considered as a request for help and a pastoral as well as a disciplinary matter. All incidents must be reported to the child protection officer.

When dealing with any incident, in priority, staff should consider:

- Medical support – immediate first aid if required, then appropriate referral to health services.
- Immediate safety/welfare support – is the pupil 'at risk' from his/her own behaviour or the behaviour of others?

- Pastoral support.

The school, including grounds, will be regularly checked by the site team, for signs of drug misuse.

Any use of illegal drugs or the offer to supply illegal drugs on or near school premises or on school trips **will always be reported to the police.**

As a general principle the pupil's parents will always be notified of the school's concern over a drug related incident. The only exception to this is when it is felt that the welfare of the young person would be placed in greater jeopardy by this action, in which case the child protection officer will be consulted.

Incident Management

The three principal areas of difficulty with drug use are:

- Health difficulties – long term damage to health (eg tobacco) or a sudden catastrophic incident (eg solvent) – many substances can have both effects (eg alcohol).
- Social/financial difficulties – conflict with parents, education, etc.
- Legal difficulties – some drug use is illegal and this can affect freedom, career and travel. (Legal status, however, should never be confused with potential harm to self or others).

Staff have a professional duty to investigate and take appropriate action, either individually or by referral, if we have reason to believe that any pupil is at risk.

CKJS has a legal duty to ensure that illegal drug use or the making or supply of controlled drugs does not take place on the premises or on school trips.

School staff may safely take possession of an unknown substance. The law:

“provides that, if a person took possession of a drug to prevent another committing an offence or continuing to commit an offence and then took speedy action to destroy the drug or hand it to an authorised person, this shall be a defence to the charge.”

SEC.5 MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT 1971

Scenarios

Drugs or equipment are discovered on school premises:

Staff are required to:

- Take possession and store securely;
- Inform the Head Teacher/Child Protection Officer:
 - ↳ Seek police advice re identification of substance and safe disposal.

In the event of a syringe being found, it will be placed in a safe container (screw top jar) and placed in a safe location prior to safe disposal – under no circumstances will a used syringe be placed in a waste bin to minimise any risk to health. This will be recorded in the school's Drug Incident book.

A pupil is found in possession of a drug:

Staff are required to:

- Take possession of the substance and store securely;
- Inform the Head Teacher/Child Protection Officer:
 - ↳ Seek advice from police re identification of substance and safe disposal/other legal action;
 - ↳ Inform the parents or carers;

A pupil is thought to be in possession of a drug:

Staff are required to:

- Isolate the pupil from peers and supervise at all times;
- Inform the Head Teacher; who will then, in consultation with SLT:
 - ↳ Inform the police;
 - ↳ Inform the parents or carers;
 - ↳ Investigate the incident and take action if required.

The school reserves the right to search the bag and drawer of any pupil suspected of being in possession of drugs and to ask a pupil to empty their pockets.

If the pupil refuses, under no circumstances will any member of staff attempt to physically search a pupil. If necessary police have powers to search.

A member of staff suspects a pupil is under the influence of a drug:

Staff will never treat intoxication lightly. The effect of any drug (including alcohol) on a young person can be highly unpredictable. Intoxication or a suspected overdose (even if the young person appears fit and well) will always be deemed a medical emergency.

Staff are required to:

- Seek medical advice (999 if urgent) and support from any nearby staff;
- Perform appropriate first aid measures;
- Keep the young person as calm as possible;
- Inform the Head Teacher; who will then, in consultation with SLT:
 - ↳ Ensure no other pupils are at risk;
 - ↳ Inform parents and carers;
 - ↳ Inform Child Protection;
 - ↳ Inform police, if appropriate.

A pupil discloses that they or their parents/carers misuse/supply drugs:

Staff are required to:

- Inform child protection officer;

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The school discovers that a pupil is 'dealing drugs' in the school:

Staff are required to: (see above on "A pupil is thought to be in possession of a drug").

- Inform the Head Teacher; who will then, in consultation with SLT:
 - ↳ Inform police and child protection;
 - ↳ Secure as much evidence as possible;
 - ↳ Work with police to construct an action plan;
 - ↳ Investigate and take appropriate action.

Monitoring and Record Keeping

We will record all drug-related incidents.

The majority of young people who misuse drugs are only experimenting with them. This behaviour is still potentially dangerous and young people must understand that the use of illegal drugs and the misuse of any substance in all circumstances are inappropriate

Pupils need to understand that the school will try to support anyone who voluntarily seeks our help with drug-related problems.

As a general principle, young people who are found in possession of, or have been supplying drugs will be suspended from school whilst thorough investigation can take place. During or immediately following this suspension, a meeting will be held to decide the most appropriate action plan. This may include exclusion from school.

It is our policy:

- Any incident where pupils are thought to be at risk of exposure to illegal drugs or from drug-related issues will be reported to the child protection officer;
- That pupils who bring recreational drugs (eg tobacco, alcohol or solvent) to school will be disciplined and their parents informed;
- That pupils who bring illegal drugs into school will be reported to the police and disciplined by the school;
- That pupils who are found in possession of illegal drugs will be reported to the police.

The school reserves the right, as a last resort, to exclude permanently a pupil who is placing him/herself, other pupils or staff at risk.

Drugs Policy and Staff

1. Teachers have access to information, training and expertise concerning drugs and their misuse.
2. Appropriate staff and appropriate outside agencies will deliver drug education within PSHE and other areas of the curriculum.
3. The Drugs Policy applies to staff. Disciplinary action will be taken if staff contravene their terms and conditions of employment.

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Media

The Head Teacher or a member of staff delegated by the Head Teacher will deal with all media involvement.

Headteacher:	M. Ryan	Date:	September 2018
Chair of Governing Body:	G. Wilson	Date:	September 2018