

Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy



Childwall C.E. Primary School has embraced the "Every Child Matters" agenda and all staff are actively incorporating the key issues into all areas of both the curriculum and the physical, social and emotional aspects of school life. The key issues are:

- Be healthy
- Stay safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution
- Achieve economic well-being

All staff recognise that these key issues are central to each child's happiness, progress and security as clearly expressed in the school's mission statement:

"And the Child grew and became strong. He was full of wisdom and God's blessings were upon Him."

Luke 2:40

Childwall C.E. Primary School is an inclusive school. Staff do everything they can to help and support all pupils who have a diagnosed special educational need or any other barrier to learning.

As part of our Christian Ethos we have selected Friendship, Thankfulness, Compassion and Forgiveness to be our core values which permeate through all our relationships, curriculum and school life.

Diane Shaw

12/09/2013

Alcohol and Drugs Education Policy

1 Aims and objectives

- 1.1 We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our alcohol and drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drinking alcohol, drug-taking, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to alcohol drugs in society.
- 1.2 The objectives of our alcohol and drugs education programme are:
- to provide children with knowledge and information about alcohol and illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
 - to enable children to discuss moral questions related to alcohol and drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
 - to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
 - to let children know what they should do if they come across alcohol and drugs, or are aware of other people misusing alcohol and drugs;
 - to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in alcohol and drug abuse;
 - to show that taking illegal alcohol and drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about alcohol and drugs are moral choices;
 - to ensure that all children are taught about alcohol and drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

2 Organisation

- 2.1 We regard alcohol and drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about alcohol and drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of alcohol and drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what alcohol and a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.
- 2.2 Alcohol and drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. The main teaching about alcohol and drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about illegal alcohol and drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the Local Authority (LA), and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. The resources and materials that we use in these lessons are recommended either by the Health Authority or the LA. Lessons that focus on alcohol and drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote in children a healthy lifestyle.
- 2.3 The children's class teacher teaches them alcohol and drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of alcohol and drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take alcohol and

drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why alcohol and drugs are such a problem for society.

3 The role of the Head Teacher

- 3.1** It is the responsibility of the Head Teacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this alcohol and drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Head Teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- 3.2** The Head Teacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the school alcohol and drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy and work within this framework.
- 3.3** The Head Teacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

4 The role of governors

- 4.1** The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on alcohol and drugs education. The governors will support the Head Teacher in following these guidelines. Governors will inform and consult with parents about the alcohol and drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the LA and health organisations so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

5 The role of parents

- 5.1** The school is well aware that the primary role in children's alcohol and drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective we will:
- inform parents about the school alcohol and drugs education policy and practice;
 - invite parents to view the materials used to teach alcohol and drugs education in our school;
 - answer any questions parents may have about the alcohol and drugs education their child receives in school;
 - take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for alcohol and drugs education in the school;
 - encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
 - inform parents about the best practice known with regard to alcohol and drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

6. SPECIFIC ISSUES STATEMENTS

The following issues may occur as part of alcohol and drug education. Staff, parents and pupils need to be aware of the school's procedures.

6.1 Confidentiality

Pupils will be made aware that some information cannot be held confidential, and made to understand that if certain disclosures are made certain action will ensue.

6.2 Complaints Procedures

Any complaints about the alcohol and drug education curriculum should be made to the Healthy Schools' Co-ordinator who will report to the governors via the link governor.

Outside Agencies

Outside agencies will be used to support and assist the teachers in the development of the classroom based work.

Parent/guardian involvement

An alcohol and drug awareness evening will be held for parents/guardians in the Summer term each year outlining the curriculum programme and disciplinary procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents in school.

6.3 Solvent based products

The following solvent based products are not allowed on school premises:

- solvent based felt tip pens, glue
- aerosols, e.g. hairspray, deodorant

Tobacco products

The school adheres and enforces the LA's no smoking policy.

INCIDENTS OF DRUG POSSESSION OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Outdoor Educational Visits which involve overnight stays

Where a pupil is found in possession of alcohol and drugs during overnight visits the following procedures should be adopted:

- Immediate confiscation of the substance found
- School immediately informed and subsequently the parents of the pupil
- The pupil to be returned to school as soon as possible
- **The school's alcohol and drug policy to be activated on the pupil's return**

Field trips

Where a pupil is found in possession of alcohol or drugs during a field trip, the following procedures would be adopted:

- Immediate confiscation of the substance found
- School informed as soon as practicable
- The pupil to be kept with a member of staff until parents are able to collect the child
- Parents to collect pupil on return from field trip
- The school's alcohol and drug policy to be activated on the pupil's return

School holidays

- Immediate confiscation and disposal of the substance (down the toilet) in the presence of another member of staff
- Inform the school as soon as practicable
- The parents will be contacted to remove the child as soon as possible or at least to be informed of the incident whilst the pupil will be kept away from the other pupils for the remainder of the trip.
- Parents to collect the pupil on return from the holiday

- The school's alcohol and drug policy to be activated on the pupil's return

6.4 Disciplinary procedures

The school recognises the need for a progressive response to an alcohol and drug related incident and will handle each case individually recognising that the future of the pupils involved could be affected by the decision and subsequent action employed. In the event of an alcohol and drug related incident the school will contact the LA Drug Support Advisor for advice, support and liaison with the police.

With this in mind the following hierarchy of disciplinary procedures will be referred to. All incidents will be recorded in the drug incident book retained by the Head Teacher.

| SUBSTANCE/OFFENCE | REACTION |
|--|---|
| Tobacco – possession/consumption | Confiscation, talk to pupil and inform parents. |
| Alcohol - possession | Confiscation, talk to pupil and inform parents. |
| Alcohol – intoxication | Attend to pupil, administer first aid or summon an ambulance if necessary. Talk to pupil, inform parents and arrange counselling and support. |
| Solvents – possession | Confiscation, talk to pupil and inform parents. |
| Solvents - consumption | Attend to pupil, administer first aid or summon an ambulance if necessary. Talk to pupil, inform parents and arrange counselling and support through the LA Drug Support Advisor. |
| Class B drugs e.g. amphetamines – possession/consumption – first offence | Confiscation, inform LA Drug Support Advisor. Talk to pupil and inform parents. 3 day exclusion and agreed school contract. |
| Class B drugs e.g. amphetamines – dealing | Confiscation, inform LA Drug Support Advisor. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Long exclusion, 10 days/permanent exclusions |
| Class A drugs e.g. heroin – possession/consumption/dealing | Confiscation, inform LA Drug Support Advisor. Talk to pupil and inform parents. Permanent exclusion |

Following any court proceedings the school would consider re-instating the pupil subject to consideration of the following:

- the court decision and recommendations
- parental attitude
- pupil attitude
- other pupils/parents attitudes

If it is deemed inappropriate to re-instate the pupil the school will assist in finding an alternative school placement.

6.5 Disciplinary procedures agreement

Parents/guardians will be provided with and required to sign with their children an agreement to abide by the disciplinary procedures relating to alcohol and drug-related incidents laid down by the governors on admission to the school.

7 Monitoring and review

- 7.1** The curriculum committee of the governing body on a regular basis will monitor the alcohol and drugs education policy. This committee will report their findings and recommendations to the full governing body as necessary, if the policy appears to need modification. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Head Teacher to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the alcohol and drug education programme taught in the school.

Signed: Mrs Pam Baines

Date: September 2013