St. Paul's CE School Brighton

Policy for Drugs Education and Drug Related Incidents

St. Pauls' CE School Policy

"Drugs in one form or another have always been a part of human society so that the issues around drugs and drug taking are extremely complex"
(Dr Michael Gossop – "Living with Drugs", Ashgate 1993)

Today's drugs are as much a part of our society as at any time in the past and people's attitudes towards drugs is diverse and contradictory. The aim of our school is to enable children to make sense of this aspect of our world and help them to make informed choices about their health in the future. St Paul's will offer a planned developmental programme of age appropriate drugs education to all its pupils.

Aims and Objectives of Drug Education

In order to achieve these aims the following objectives should be considered.

To allow children to gain a real understanding of their bodies functions and how any drug use can effect their functioning.
To enable children to develop informed knowledge of drugs and to understand the effects and risks involved in using those drugs.
To help children be aware of where to go and who to go to, for information or advice about drugs and their use.
To give children an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use.
To encourage children to develop a sense of confidence and increase their self-esteem when making decisions relating to drugs.
To enable children to develop techniques for avoiding and resisting pressure. Understanding that it is quite acceptable to say "NO" if under peer pressure.
To enable children to develop positive attitudes towards taking responsibility for their own personal health and safety.

The Drug Education Curriculum

St Paul's aims to provide all pupils with up to date accurate information on which to base their decisions about drug use. This will include teaching about: -

Legal and illegal drugs.
The law on drugs.
The effects of and risk of drugs.
Consideration of the implications of drug use for the individual family and wider community/society focussing particularly on the effect on young children if parents / carers are involved.
Developing positive attitudes towards personal health and safety and how their bodies function and how any drug use can affect that functioning.

Teaching and Learning

The drug education curriculum will be delivered through our on going PSHE programme. St. Paul's is also in a high drug use area, so pupils, parents and staff are regularly reminded what to do if they find drug related items, eg needles in school or in the park nearby school, where drug taking is rife.

At St. Paul's a variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used for the delivery of P.S.H..E. A balanced range of teaching and learning methods will provide the necessary knowledge and understanding as well as offering children opportunities to examine values, attitudes and behaviour that are essential to a holistic drug education programme. St Paul's, aims to create an atmosphere where our children feel secure and confident and therefore able to discuss issues relating to drug use and misuse. The children are encouraged to respond to each other with a considerate and sympathetic approach. At St. Paul's, the use of ground rules in all areas of P.H.S.E highlights good practice and emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills.

Training

The school will provide appropriate training for staff and governors whenever necessary.

Health and Safety Issues

Illegal use of drugs is not permitted on the school premises or whilst on day / residential visits. There is a No Smoking Policy in School.

Medicines Policy

Refer to the school Health and Safety Policy.

Drug Related Incidents

Factors to be taken into consideration when dealing with drug related incidents: -

The best interests of the child (particularly if the incident involves a parent / carer of the child in school).
The protection of other children.

Drug Related Incidents (Adult)

If any member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) is suspicious of an adult being under the influence of drug / alcohol when accompanying their children to / from school the following may be appropriate: -

Invite the adult into school away from the children.
Send for help from a member of the Senior Management / Head.
Remove the child / children to a safe environment.
Reason and discuss with the adult.
Try to arrange alternative transportation for the journey home.
Make an appointment to discuss further the next day. Offer contacts.

If the situation persists, inform the parent / carer that you will have to take further action, i.e. involve other agencies.

If a teaching or non-teaching member of staff is suspicious of an adult being under the influence of alcohol / drugs, then the following may be applied is appropriate: -

If possible, prevent entry to school and inform the local police.
If already in school, isolate from children.
Contact Senior Management / Head for removal from school preferably by persuasion.
Call local police for support / protection.

Consultation

Staff and Governors to review policy and help to develop.
Parents will be informed by letter that policy has been put in place.

Special Educational Needs

Sex and Relationship Education should help all pupils understand their physical and emotional development and enable them to make positive decisions in their lives.

At St. Paul's, pupils have different abilities based on their emotional and physical development, life experiences, literacy levels and learning difficulties, but we will aim to ensure that all pupils are properly included in Sex Relationship Education.

Monitoring

The co-ordinator will monitor and review the policy and practise by observation, attending appropriate training courses, talking to pupils, parents and the wider community.
The draft will be consolidated with governors, staff, parents and the wider Community. Parents will be given an opportunity to learn about the policy and how they can support the programme at home.

Reviewed August 2019