



**ST. OSWALD'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

## RATIONALE

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we believe that the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical education of the whole child is paramount in preparing him/her to live a fulfilled life in the society in which he or she lives. We believe that health education is a vital part of every child's development and it is therefore essential that all members of the school are fully aware of the effects of drugs.

## PURPOSE

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School we aim:

- To provide an effective framework for Drugs Education.
- To enable all school personnel to clearly understand the school's position on drugs.

In keeping with our Mission Statement, we aim to provide support for any member affected by drug abuse.

## GUIDELINES

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we agree that our policy defines drugs as; those substances, legal or illegal, the misuse of which may lead to adverse effects on individuals or the community.

Drugs Education will be addressed by the class teacher, throughout the Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 mainly through the delivery of units of work, topics or themes. All school personnel will support this approach.

Guidance to support Drugs Education is built into the Science Scheme of work.

In the Early Years teaching will concentrate on information about basic hygiene, diet etc. and the importance of this and caring for oneself in everyday life in order to remain healthy.

In Key Stage One these aspects of Drugs education will be continued as part of the planned curriculum. Pupils will look at medicine containers and discuss why they have special screw tops etc. They will learn about the storage of medicines in safe places. They will know that they must not take any medicines or tablets without adult supervision.

In Key Stage Two teaching will develop, consolidate and extend past information.

Children will know that all drugs are dangerous if they are not used correctly. They will learn that many drugs are derived from plants. They will know that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects. They will be made aware of the dangers of all types of drug abuse in society.

Pupils' queries will be answered sensitively, openly and honestly at a level deemed to be appropriate to the development of the individual.

The school acknowledges its responsibility to keep personnel abreast of current education by providing up to date resources and training.

The support of outside agencies may be called upon to provide specialist advice and support in some instances.

## HANDLING INCIDENTS

The Headteacher must be informed of any incidents involving drugs in school, i.e. if a child is found in possession of drugs, or if drugs are found in the school or on the school grounds. The Headteacher will then take whatever action is necessary to deal with these incidents appropriately. This may include contacting other agencies as is deemed necessary and may also include discussions with parents. The Headteacher should also be informed when there are concerns about individual children coming into contact with drugs outside school.

## CONCLUSION

All children should receive drugs education that is age appropriate. Drugs education will be taught in a way that develops relationships and trust between staff and pupils as well as giving children information.

Reviewed: October 2023