

# Margaret Roper Catholic Primary School

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*Caring, Learning, and Achieving together as part of God's Family.*



## Drugs Education Policy

### Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we perceive things and the way the body works. This policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs

### Rationale

Current research indicates that the use of drugs, both legal and illegal, is prevalent in the lives of young people. . As part of the school's care and welfare of its pupils, we believe we have a duty to inform and educate them about drug use. Schools share responsibility with parents and the community to educate pupils about the consequences of drug use and misuse and to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and practising skills. We also believe that the misuse of any drugs by members of the school community cannot be condoned and will be dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned. Fundamental to the school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy. Margaret Roper s Primary School is committed to the health and safety of everyone in our community and we will work together to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

### Purposes

- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school, both formal and informal, with particular reference to Science and PSHE & Citizenship and as part of our Healthy Schools Work
- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol and tobacco
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use / misuse

- To establish an atmosphere / environment / situation in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs
- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug related incidents
- To respond to any individual in the school community in need of support
- To enable pupils to identify sources of confidential advice and support, as school staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidentiality in serious cases of drug misuse.

### **Guidelines**

Pupils at Margaret Roper will follow an integrated drug education programme which is responsive to needs and relevant to their age, experience and maturity. It will be delivered through the existing curriculum, mainly Science and PSHE & Citizenship. It will focus on the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes and will emphasise self-esteem and decision making skills.

### **Medicines**

The school has a policy / procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. ( refer Administration of medicines Policy)

### **Tobacco**

The school enforces a total ban on smoking at all times throughout school premises, including all grounds and vehicles. There are no designated smoking areas. However the school will offer support to those trying to stop smoking including referral on the Croydon Smoking Cessation Team - <https://www.croydonhealthservices.nhs.uk/stop-smoking-service.htm>. Anti-smoking education is at the forefront of the school's drug education programme.

### **Alcohol**

Consumption of alcohol is not permitted on school premises during the school day but small amounts of alcohol may at times be provided for adults at after school events. This is at the head's discretion. Any alcohol on school premises will be stored securely.

### **Volatile Substances**

All products containing volatile substances such as cleaning materials, stationery, etc. will be locked away securely out of the way of pupils when not in use.

### **Management of drug-related incidents**

The Head is responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents. Support for dealing with incidents will be sought from outside agencies as appropriate.

### **Procedures**

1. It is the policy of Margaret Roper s Primary School, that no child should bring any drug, legal or illegal, to school. If a child will need medication during the school day the parent or guardian should notify the school and ask permission for the medication to be brought. (refer Administration of medicines Policy)
2. The school will take very seriously misuse of any substances such as glue, other solvents, or alcohol. The parents or guardians of any child involved will always be notified. Any child who deliberately brings substances into school for the purpose of misuse may be punished by a fixed-term or permanent exclusion depending on the circumstances, and the police and social services will be informed. If the offence is repeated, the child will be (if they were not previously) permanently excluded, and the police and social services will be informed.
3. If any child is found to be suffering from the effects of alcohol or other substances, arrangements will be made for that child to be taken home and a referral will be made to Social Services.
4. It is forbidden for anyone, adult or child, to bring onto the school premises illegal drugs. Any child who is found to have brought to school any type of illegal substance may be punished by a fixed-term or permanent exclusion depending on the circumstances, and the police and social services will be informed. If the offence is repeated, the child will be (if they were not previously) permanently excluded, and the police and social services will be informed.
5. If a child is found to have deliberately brought illegal substances into school, and is found to be distributing these to other pupils, the child will be permanently excluded from the school. The police and social services will also be informed.
6. It is forbidden for any adult to be intoxicated through alcohol or other means on school premises. Anyone found so, will be escorted by 2 staff members from the premises and the police and/or social services will be informed.

### **Information sharing**

We will share responsibility for the education of pupils with parents, who will be kept informed and involved through newsletters, awareness raising evenings and individual discussions when appropriate.

The school works with the Local Authority to provide relevant information and coordinated support.

### **Advice and Support**

Where appropriate, pupils will be offered support by the LEA Drugs Adviser / Off The Record / Social Services or the police.

### **Conclusion**

The welfare of our pupils and staff is of paramount concern and we will work together with everyone involved with the school to ensure the continued education and well being of all of our children.

Governors monitor and check that this policy is being upheld on annual basis.

Approved by (Governor)	FGB / Ethos Committee
Date of Policy Implementation	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2017
Date of Policy Review	Spring Term 2018

A copy of this policy is placed in the prospectus and on the school's website.