



Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy Vapes C Garcia

Mission Statement: Caring, Learning and Achieving together as part of God's family

Aim

- Equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle.
- Through PSHE/RSE (including drug, alcohol and tobacco education), help children to become more confident and responsible young people.
- Teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, alcohol and tobacco.
- Equip children with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society

School

We regard 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 drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In 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 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 a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs. Drugs education is an important part of our school's personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum. Drug education is taught throughout the school in a manner appropriate to the age of the children involved. Children are taught what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs, and the dangers involved in taking illegal drugs. In teaching this element of the curriculum, we follow the guidelines provided by the Local Education Authority (LEA) and we receive advice and support from the Local Health Authority. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, peer pressure and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to engage in role play, 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 drugs are such a problem for society.

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 school curriculum, mainly through 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/vaping at all times throughout school premises, including all grounds and vehicles. There are no designated smoking areas.

Drugs

The school enforces a total ban on the use of illegal drugs (including cannabis) at all times throughout school premises, including all grounds and vehicles.

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 e.g. during the interval at the EOYP - this is at the head's discretion. Any alcohol on school premises will be stored securely and locked away.

Volatile Substances

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

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

Definition of a drug-related incident

At Margaret Roper, a drug-related incident includes any incidents involving any drug that is unauthorized and therefore not permitted within the school boundaries. Drug related incidents in a school rarely involve illegal substances but can involve:

Pupils and parents smoking cigarettes/ vapes in school, a parent/carer collecting their child whilst drunk or under the influence of drugs, pupils selling cigarettes to other pupils, misusing another pupils' asthma inhaler, disclosing concern about a family member who has a drug problem, giving medicines to another pupil, a teacher with information about the illegal sale of cigarettes/vapes at a local shop, the school keeper finding used syringes in the playground, a member of the public phoning the school to say they have seen pupils smoking.

School responses to Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco (DAT) related incidents

In all DAT related incidents, the following principles will apply:

- The head teacher and deputy will be informed immediately
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response
- The needs of the pupil(s) will always come first, whilst also taking account of the needs of the school as a whole
- Parents/carers will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- Support agencies, including the police will be involved as appropriate and in keeping with legal requirements
- A range of responses will be considered including disciplinary and counselling/supportive responses.
- Permanent exclusion will not be the automatic response and will only be used in the most serious cases and as a final resort
- Any action taken will be in line with the school's behaviour policy.
- Decisions about the response will depend on the severity of the situation, whether the offence is one of a series or a first time and whether the person involved is putting themselves and others at risk. The Headship team, in consultation with key staff will decide whether a disciplinary and/or counselling action should take place.
- Incidents will be reported to the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors

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

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Where appropriate, pupils will be offered support by the LEA Drugs Adviser / School nurse / 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 wellbeing of all of our children.

November 2018

Reviewed date: Sept 2021

Reviewed: June 2025