St Mary's RC Primary School

# Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy

"We aim to ensure that all children are provided with a challenging, broad and balanced curriculum."

(St Mary's Mission Statement)

## A definition of Drugs

For the purpose of this policy, 'drugs' include legal drugs, (alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, solvents etc) prescribed and non-prescribed medicines and illegal drugs. While all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines.

## Rationale

At St. Mary's School we are committed to providing the best possible education for all children and to developing each child's full potential. Included in this is the provision for Drugs Education – pupils are given the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities across and beyond the curriculum so that they can make a positive contribution to the life of the school and to their communities.

The school believes that the possession and or use of drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, nor by pupils who are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate.

Drug education has implications for the whole school community. It is most effective when supported by consistent messages from the community, families and school policy and practice. Pupils are likely to gain more from drug education when there is consistency between what is taught in the curriculum and the school's values and ethos which have been developed and embraced by all members of the school community.

The school operates a 'smoke free' policy. No smoking is permitted anywhere on the school grounds.

## Aims

Drug education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Through our Drug Education programme we aim to enable our pupils to:

- Clarify their own knowledge on medicines and drugs
- Acquire attitudes, skills and values about medicine and drug use that promote personal well-being
- Develop a responsible lifestyle around medicines and drugs in the longer term

## Objectives

The school is committed to providing an accurate drug education curriculum that meets the statutory requirements as set out in the National Curriculum Science Order 2014 and to fulfil the requirements of the 2002 Education Act which states:
Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Further, to go beyond that, we offer a wide ranging scheme of work that empowers our pupils to make healthy, informed choices about drugs and alcohol throughout their lives.

The curriculum will reflect a balance between:

• personal and social skills
• knowledge and understanding
• attitudes and values

## Curriculum organisation

Drugs education is delivered as part of the science curriculum and during the annual Healthy Mind and Body week, which takes place in the summer term.

The school uses the programme developed by the Lambeth Healthy Schools Team.

Additionally Drugs education is taught through other curriculum subjects including:

- **English** – group discussion and interaction, information texts, literature, media
- **Mathematics** – handling data including interpreting and discussing results
- **Computing** – finding things out through research
- **Physical education** – fitness and health
- **Religious education** – exploring morals, values and cultural diversity

## Teaching and Learning

In developing the children's knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding in Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education we emphasise the following:
• To establish and work from what pupils already know using pupil questionnaires
• To establish a group agreement and create an environment suitable for discussion and reflection, 'Ground Rules'
• Use an active learning approach incorporating a wide range of activities including circle time, class council, school council, assemblies, debates and discussions, group work, drama and role-play, and visits from external agencies

## Assessment and reporting arrangements

Teachers keep records in accordance with the school policy on record keeping, assessment and recording.

Assessment of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education is included within the assessment of PSHEE.

A PSHEE comment is included in the annual report of each pupil.

## Links with other existing policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Drugs Related Incidents
- Behaviour and anti-bullying
- Equal opportunities
- Race relations
- Science
- Relationships and Sex Education
- Foundation Stage
- Teaching and Learning.

## Policy Review Date

This policy was informed by reference to 'Drug Education and Policy Guidelines for Lambeth Schools (2003)', 'Healthier Schools Partnership Drugs Education Policy Guidelines', 'Updated Drug Strategy 2002', 'Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools at Key Stages 1-4 QCA (2003)'.

This policy was reviewed in July 2015.

It will next be reviewed in July 2017.