



# DRUGS AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY

Revised: Summer 2021  
Next revision : Summer 2024

## DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall have the following meanings for the purposes of this document:

<b>the School</b>	means Clifton All Saints Academy
<b>PSHCE</b>	means Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education
<b>LA</b>	means Local Authority
<b>DfES</b>	means Department for Education and Skills

## PHILOSOPHY

Drug and alcohol misuse is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Education therefore plays a vital role in ensuring young people have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and understand the risks of drug taking which will empower them to resist the many influences acting upon them both at the present time and in the future.

At the School we define a drug as any substance that changes the way the body works normally. This therefore includes: legal drugs, such as alcohol and tobacco, all illegal drugs, volatile substances and over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The School uses the 'all medicines are drugs, but not all drugs are medicines' message.

## OBJECTIVES

The School's drug education objectives follow those set out within the National Curriculum framework for PSHCE and Science:

- To develop pupils' physical skills and encourage them to recognise the importance of pursuing a healthy lifestyle and keeping themselves and others safe.
- To develop pupils understanding about the role of drugs and medicines.
- To learn about the effects of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on the human body and how these relate to their personal health.

This policy has been written using the DfES (2004) guidance (updated in 2015) relating to Drug Education.

## AIMS

The School aim to:

- Teach the children it is wrong to take illegal substances
- Enable children to make healthy, informed choices through increasing knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes

- Help children develop a sense of awareness and self-esteem
- Counter any inaccurate messages which children receive about drugs
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience medicinal drugs
- Widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- Enable children to identify where help and support can be found
- Listen to our pupils' own thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs
- To monitor, evaluate and review learning outcomes for pupils

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGIES**

A variety of teaching and learning strategies are used by teachers and support staff during drug education sessions, including:

- Circle time
- Whole class discussion
- Paired/small group work
- Drama and role play

### **CROSS-CURRICULAR LINKS**

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for PSHCE, and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the School's ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as geography and physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

### **CONTINUITY AND PROGRESSION**

It is vital that children's needs regarding drug awareness and education are met and developed throughout their education. The School's scheme of work reflects this development and ensures that children build upon previous learning experiences and are given the skills to understand and respond to changes and new information.

### **ASSESSMENT AND RECORD KEEPING**

Assessment, Recording and Reporting is in line with the School's Assessment Policy. Assessment approaches within Drug Education include:

- Informal teacher observations
- Pupils' self-assessment

Progress is reported formally to parents within the PSHCE section of the individual reports at the end of each academic year.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Some children may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of staff. While staff wish to be supportive, it is clear that they work within the child protection guidelines, which clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality.

With regard to drug related incidents, the School will consider each situation individually and recognise that a variety of responses may be necessary, in line with the LA and national guidance. The School will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take.

## **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

Working in partnership with parents and carers and with the wider school community is an essential element of drug education and we therefore strive to involve appropriate individuals and agencies from outside school wherever possible to benefit the children's learning and development.