

SAINT BEDE'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
LYTHAM



Drugs Education Policy

Mission Statement

“We aim to reflect the true Christian Values proclaimed in the Gospel, and seek to provide a caring community in which young people can grow as balanced individuals, morally, intellectually and spiritually and so participate fully in the real world.”

As a community we are concerned for the health and wellbeing of all members of our community. Saint Bede's Catholic High School is aware of the prevalence in today's society of drugs and the risk of our pupils being in contact with drugs and those using or misusing them. We recognise that drugs education is a whole school issue.

It is in recognition of a need for a clear, consistent and balanced approach to drugs education and incident management that this policy has been developed.

Definition of drugs

For the purposes of this policy the term 'drugs' refers to:

- Legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents/volatile substances.
- Medicines – prescription and 'over the counter'.
- Illegal substances.

It is also recognised that any drug can be potentially dangerous.

Curriculum Issues

The aim of drugs education in Saint Bede's Catholic High School is to:

- Create a positive climate in which teaching and learning take place where pupils feel comfortable to discuss their perceptions of drug use
- To help raise and maintain pupil self esteem to develop knowledge and understanding of drugs and medicines and how they are used and misused
- To provide a variety of learning experiences encouraging the development of personal skills and the exploration of values and attitudes
- To develop decision making and risk assessment skills
- To enable pupils to recognise positive and negative influences
- To encourage pupils to develop healthy lifestyles
- To make pupils aware of laws relating to the selling, possession and use of drugs.

Content

Drugs education takes place predominantly in the PSHE/Citizenship lessons in which all pupils participate as timetabled in the School Calendar. Within this, each year group has some specified drugs education provision usually involving visitors and outside agencies.

Some drugs education is covered in the other curriculum subjects such as P.E. where mention is made of the effects of substances, particularly alcohol and tobacco, on the body. Within the Food Technology curriculum, pupils are also made aware about what constitutes a 'healthy lifestyle'.

Visitors and Outside Agencies

Visitors and agency professionals are invited into school to contribute to the programme of study within the PSHE/Citizenship curriculum. Their visits are introduced and followed up in work done with the class teacher, helping to dispel the message that drugs are 'special' and beyond the remit of teachers.

Visitors to Saint Bede's Catholic High School are aware of our distinct status as a Catholic school and are consulted before their visit to ensure that the content and delivery of their input does not conflict with the teachings of the school.

Resources

Drugs education will be delivered using textbooks, videos, specifically designed materials, games and worksheets. All materials used will be appropriate to the age group using it and it has been considered by members of school staff to be suitable for use in the classroom.

Confidentiality and the classroom

Whilst it is important that pupils feel comfortable and in a 'safe' environment within the classroom when dealing with drugs issues, they can not be guaranteed confidentiality if the class teacher is concerned that they are in some way at risk. All issues that arise will be reported to a member of the Senior Management Team.

Substance Related Incidents

All substance-related incidents in school will be taken seriously and each incident will be considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances. The school will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the well being of the school community and a range of responses and sanctions may be used including the involvement of outside agencies e.g. the LEA, Police and groups such as Young Addaction.

The following is an outline of the punishments that pupils will face:

- If any pupil is discovered smoking cigarettes, or e-cigarettes on the school premises they are referred to their Head of Year who will contact their parents and enforce an appropriate punishment.
- If any pupil is discovered to be under the influence of alcohol, or drugs on the school premises their parents will be contacted and the pupil will be isolated from their peers until their parent collects them from school.
- If pupils are involved on day visits or residential trips with school and are discovered to be smoking or consuming alcohol, or in possession of illegal substances, then appropriate sanctions will be enforced.
- Any pupil who **brings** illegal substances into school will be subject to a lengthy exclusion.

- Any pupil found **supplying** illegal substances in school will be excluded permanently.
- Any pupil who brings illegal substances in to school, **on more than one occasion**, could be permanently excluded.

Confidentiality and Pastoral Issues

“The essence of a confidential relationship is openness and agreement about what, if anything will happen to information disclosed between the two people. It need not always take the form of a promise of secrecy.” (‘The Right Responses’)

- Pupils should be aware of the boundaries of confidence before any disclosures are made.
- Staff should never offer absolute confidentiality as they may be obliged to share information in cases where they consider a pupil is at risk.
- Whilst there is no legal requirement for staff to disclose information relating to pupil drug use, parents will normally be contacted and other agencies may be involved where appropriate.
- When considering the involvement of other agencies the implications for all parties will be carefully considered.
- All situations will be accurately documented, including information regarding the school's response and monitoring of any long-term action taken.