



# St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School

*Where every child is special*



## DRUG AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Policy compiled by:

Headteacher

Date of last review:

Spring 2019

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Spring 2022



### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*God's love is at the heart of our Catholic School family.*

*We show this in our respect, kindness and love for others and by treating other people as we wish to be treated ourselves.*

*We will encourage everyone to be the best that we can be.*

### OUR SCHOOL AIMS

To guide our children to grow in the love of God and build relationships that will enable them to make a positive contribution to the school and society.

To develop an exciting, challenging and creative curriculum that produces confident and successful learners who are the best that they can be.

To develop high quality learning that enables every child to flourish, to discover their talents and be lifelong learners.

To establish a teaching and learning environment that encourages everyone to enjoy, to achieve, to be inclusive, to be healthy, and to stay safe.

To nurture a strong partnership between home and school.

To have respect and understanding for our school, our community and our world, helping our children to become responsible citizens and good role models.

### OUR SHARED VISION

**Every child** at St Thomas of Canterbury is special and will achieve their full potential academically, socially, spiritually and emotionally through the provision of a loving community and rich and varied learning opportunities and the highest quality teaching and learning.

**Every staff member** at St Thomas of Canterbury will feel valued and enabled to provide the opportunities that we want for our children and to do so as part of a loving community which has the highest expectations of and for all.

**Every Governor** at St Thomas of Canterbury will feel valued and enabled to act as a critical friend to the School and to be accountable for the School's strategy. They will play a visible role supporting all children, their parents and staff at School and in the wider community, to provide the best environment possible for learning and spiritual growth.



## **OUR GOLDEN RULE**

We treat others as we would like to be treated

### **Aims**

The aim of the policy is to put in place guidelines for the protection of our children and families. This policy has been developed in collaboration with representatives of the Governing Body, Teaching Staff, Pupils, Parents / Carers, Outside Agencies, such as LA, NHS, Police and in accordance with the DfES guidelines.

Pupils and young people of school age are part of society and as such the school recognises the need to prepare and equip pupils for life in a drug using society. We aim to educate and equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

The following outline the definitions of terms used in this policy:

### **Drug:**

This document uses the term drug to refer to any substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave: all legal drugs including alcohol and tobacco, all illegal drugs, volatile substances, and over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

### **Drug use:**

The consumption of any drug. All drug use, including medicinal use, carries the potential for harm.

### **Drug misuse:**

Drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.

### **Drug abuse:**

Drug taking which harms health or functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

### **Objectives / pupil learning outcomes**

- To provide accurate information about drugs and the law relating to them
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs
- to provide opportunities to examine attitudes and values towards drug use
- To promote the development of personal and social skills relating to health behaviour and the opportunity to practice them
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

### **Curriculum context**

- We regard drugs education as a whole school issue.
- The school acknowledges that a positive health promoting ethos helps pupils feel valued and part of the school community and, in doing so, helps build self esteem and self images that may enable pupils to cope more effectively in drug related situations.
- Specific drug related information is provided within the statutory science curriculum.
- Opportunities to teach about the wider issues of promoting health, positive behaviour and social responsibility are also provided in the PSHE (Learning for Life), RE and PE curriculum.



## **Teaching and learning methods**

- Place new learning in the context of previous experience
- Explore currently held personal and cultural beliefs and values in the context of new learning
- Apply new learning to other situations
- Relate new knowledge to current behaviour, so as to be able to make and act on informed choices
- Actively consider the implications of the learning for themselves, society and the environment

## **The school's position on illegal substances on site:**

- The School has an absolute zero tolerance policy and will involve the police and/or Children's Services immediately if any child, staff member or parent/carer or other person on site is found to have or suspected to have illegal substances in their possession in School.

## **The school's position on legally available substances on site:**

### **Tobacco**

- The school operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the building and grounds. This includes vaping.

### **Alcohol**

- The consumption of alcohol during the working day is prohibited for all members of the school community.
- The Headteacher must be consulted and permission obtained before arranging any functions at which alcohol may be consumed.
- As a rule, alcohol should not be consumed at any function where pupils are present but this is left to the careful discretion of the Headteacher for each event.

### **Solvents**

The school recognises that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed.

- Permanent markers should be kept secure at all times.
- Correcting fluid is not permitted in school for children's use.
- Aerosol sprays are permitted for use in school under adult supervision, in a well ventilated space.
- Lighter fuel is not permitted in school.

### **Medication: Over-the-counter and Prescribed Drugs**

- See Healthcare and Administration of Medicines Policy

## **The School's position in relation to substance misuse by parents;**

If a member of staff suspects that a parent collecting their child from school and intending to drive is intoxicated the police advice is that efforts should be calmly made to help the parent think of alternative, safer ways of getting home. This might include walking home, getting somebody else to collect them or calling a taxi.

If the parent becomes aggressive and insists on driving on no account should staff put their own safety or security at risk. If possible staff should note down details of the car and phone the police with this information as soon as possible.

The child's welfare is paramount and the school will act within agreed procedures and current legislation to support the child. The Headteacher and Inclusion leader as Designated Safeguarding Leads should be made aware of all situations arising.



A written record will be kept by the Headteacher of any incidents.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The EPR/PSHE Leader and Science Leader will monitor delivery of the programme through observation and discussion with teaching staff.

Evaluation of the programme's effectiveness will be conducted on the basis of:

- Pupil and teacher evaluation of the content and learning processes
- Staff meetings to review and share experience
- Assessment of pupil learning objectives/outcomes

*This policy of St Thomas of Canterbury School upholds the school's ethos and Mission Statement. It must be read in conjunction with and implemented in accordance to the school's policies for Health & Safety Equal Opportunities, Inclusion and Safeguarding. Copies of these policies are available from the school website.*