

ST MICHAELS'S CE MIDDLE SCHOOL

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The school is committed to ensuring the health and safety of its pupils. It recognises the importance of its pastoral role in securing their welfare and takes the necessary actions to safeguard their wellbeing. It shares the local and national concerns about the short-term and long-term effects of substance misuse on young people. Therefore, the school seeks to educate every pupil about substance misuse and to help them to develop the knowledge and skills to make sensible decisions.

The school believes that, as part of the wider community, it shares responsibility for the education of the pupils in this area with parents and guardians and with those representatives of external agencies who have specialist knowledge or experience in this area.

The school recognises that it cannot separate itself from the outside world and that those involved in trafficking illegal substances are targeting younger and younger people. The governing body has, therefore, agreed a statement on illegal drugs in school. This seeks to discourage such substances being brought into school and set out the procedures that will be implemented if they are. The statement also covers the legal drugs, tobacco, alcohol and solvents. These are the most easily available and, potentially, the most likely to be misused. A copy of this statement is attached. Members of staff play an essential role in discouraging pupils from bringing inappropriate and/or illegal substances into school and for dealing with incidents in school at the initial stage. Advice for staff is attached.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Drugs education is mainly taught in the Life Studies element of the Personal and Social Education programme and as part of the Science programme but opportunities to reinforce learning can and do occur in other areas of the curriculum. Drugs education occurs from years 5-8. The pupils have the opportunity to revisit aspects previously covered and look at them again from their new, older, more mature perspective. The main purposes of drugs education are:

- to increase the pupils' factual knowledge about legal and illegal drugs, including the physical and legal implications;
- to promote the pupils' self confidence and self esteem, encouraging them to take responsibility for their own actions;

- to help the pupils consider factors that influence those who misuse drugs;
- to help the pupils develop the necessary skills, including the ability to make informed choices, to be self assertive and resist peer and advertising pressures;
- to promote in pupils positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.

The examination of attitudes and the development of skills are achieved through a variety of teaching and learning styles including group and pairs discussion, role-play, interviews, questionnaires and games. The knowledge element is presented to the pupils through printed materials, videos and games. The school invites visiting speakers if they have the necessary knowledge and skills to enhance the pupils' learning. The general ethos of the school, including elements of the informal curriculum such as extra-curricular activities, plays an important part in reinforcing positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles.

2007

April