

Bickerton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School



Drugs Education Policy

Person responsible for policy:

Paul Sweetnam

Approved:

13th February 2023

Signed:

Claire Carman, Chair of Governors

To be reviewed:

FGB 3 2026



'Life in all its fullness' John (10:10)

Our School Prayer

This is our school,
Let peace be here,
Let it be full of
Happiness.
Let love be here.
Love of one another,
Love of everyone,
Love of life itself,
And love of God.
Amen

Our Mission Statement

Respect for oneself and others is central to our mission of giving every child in our school the highest standard of education and care within a Christian community.

Our School Rules

Respect and take care of each other.
Treat others how you would like to be treated.
Share and use the school's equipment carefully.
Listen to each other and to adults at school.
Help others to learn.

SECTION A: POLICIES

General

This section contains the policies that the governing body has decided shall apply to the school. Procedures specified by the head teacher to implement these policies are detailed in Section B.

The following terminology is used in this section:

“may” indicates a suggestion by the governing body to the head teacher;

“should” indicates a recommendation by the governing body to the head teacher and indicates what the governing body considers to be best practice;

“must” indicates a mandatory requirement determined by the governing body.

Where the head teacher is unable to implement any mandatory requirement specified in this section, he must report the fact to the next meeting of the governing body and, in urgent matters, to the chair of governors.

Aims and Expectations

We aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking, cigarettes, vaping, substance misuse including aerosols and alcohol, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The Role of Governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the head teacher in following these guidelines.

The Role of Parents

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supportive relationship with the parents of children at our school through mutual respect, trust and co-operation. In promoting this objective, we will:

- inform parents about the school drugs education policy and practice;
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school;
- take seriously any issue which parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school;
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy and making modifications to it as necessary;
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education so that the parents can support the key messages being given to children at school.

Role of the Head Teacher

The head teacher should report organisational issues which might affect implementation of the policy to the governing body in the head teacher's report as appropriate.

It is the responsibility of the head teacher to consult with parents about the drugs education policy, and to liaise with the LA, health organisations and other appropriate external agencies so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The head teacher must ensure that staff, parents and all other adults who work with children on these issues are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively.

It is also the head teacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The head teacher will monitor the policy on a day to day basis and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy.

Monitoring

The governing body will monitor the drugs education policy and review it every three years. The governing body takes into consideration any representation from parents about the drugs education programme and comments will be recorded.

The head teacher must arrange for appropriate records to be maintained and reviewed.

SECTION B: PROCEDURES

School Ethos and Philosophy

At Bickerton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, the Christian values of the Church of England are central to the high quality of relationships and behaviour that we all expect and enjoy at school. We want every child to grow up safe from the harmful effects of drug misuse. We therefore offer all of our children the opportunity to discuss and learn about this issue, and to learn how to resist pressures to be involved in drug misuse so that they can enjoy their lives to the full and fulfil their potential.

The Objectives of our Drugs Education Programme

- to provide children with knowledge and information about illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas;
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- to extend children's awareness of other forms of substance abuse such as aerosols and alcohol, and of the harmful effects of tobacco use;
- to help children to know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse;
- to show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices;

- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner.

We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately as they occur. In PSHE lessons, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class. In science lessons we teach children what a drug is and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs as they get older.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's PSHE curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in KS2, where the children are taught about illegal drugs, and the dangers faced by those who take them.

The children's class teacher teaches them drug education in normal lesson time. Sometimes the class teacher seeks support from the school nurse or another health professional. The teaching style that we use encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. Children explore issues, such as why people take drugs, peer pressure, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. We give children the opportunity to talk in groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.