

**ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY &
NURSERY SCHOOL MAYOBRIDGE**



**DRUGS & SUBSTANCES EDUCATION
POLICY**

NOVEMBER 2016

Introduction

The fundamental principle of St. Patrick's Drugs & Substances Education Policy is that the misuse of drugs runs contrary to our belief in the sacredness of human life. As a staff we are committed to the growth and personal development of every child in our care. Research shows that personal inadequacy, poor self esteem and peer pressure are among the main reasons for indulgence in drug misuse. The Education Reform NI Order 1989 highlights the contribution school can make to prepare young people for adult life.

Rationale

One of the school's strategic aims is to promote the spiritual, moral and physical well being of its pupils. To this end, we have a responsibility to equip our children with the necessary knowledge, skills attitudes and values to handle the personal and moral values affecting their lives. Since the misuse of alcohol/drugs may affect the children in our care directly or indirectly, we believe that the most effective preventative measure is to deliver a drug's education programme through appropriate areas within the curriculum, age appropriately.

Aims

The overall aim of our Drugs & Substances Education policy is to prevent young people engaging in the misuse of drugs and harmful substances. Through curricular programmes and other guidance activities the school will help pupils develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals
- Skills, attitudes and abilities which will enable them to be effective in dealing with the drugs/harmful substances culture
- Independence of mind and decision making
- Self reliance, self discipline and self respect
- Communication and decision making skills

Knowledge and Understanding

Our Drugs & Substances Education programme seeks to develop:

- Understanding of the physical and emotional consequences of drug/substances indulgence
- Understanding of the nature of drug/alcohol addiction
- Understanding of the harmful effects of substances on the body

Through PDMU, Alive O/Grow in Love, the Science element within World Around Us ,Circle Time and P7 Transition Programme (including workshops), our children will have the following learning opportunities:

- How to keep healthy
- An understanding of Drugs as medicines and the associated safety rules
- The use of Medicines for a healthy life
- Different types of drugs

It is envisaged that the above learning opportunities will produce the following outcomes:

- Drugs can benefit society

- Drugs can be handled safely
- Drugs (including Alcohol) have harmful effects when not handled safely
- Pupils will have skills to resist peer pressure
- Pupils will have skills to keep themselves safe

Primary Seven children will be offered a support programme to heighten awareness of the dangers associated with Drug, Alcohol and harmful substances as part of their KS2/3 Transition.

Links with other Policies

This policy forms part of the school's overall Pastoral Care Policy

It links with the Safeguarding & Child Protection and First Aid & Administration of Medication Policies in which the school outlines the steps it will take to protect children from harm.

It links with the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy in which the school outlines the types of behaviour which are considered appropriate and inappropriate, together with the sanctions which will be used as part of the disciplinary process.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Drugs & Substances Education Policy

Implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Principal and Vice Principal in consultation with staff and parents. Feedback from ongoing monitoring will inform amendments. New ideas and strategies will be incorporated as a result of feedback, pastoral meetings and staff training. This policy will be formally evaluated and reviewed every two years. i.e. November 2018

Signed: M. Ryan (Principal)

Ratified: March 2017

*Signed: N. Lynchehaun
(Chairperson of Board of Governors)*