



## St Anne (Stanley) Church of England Primary

### Drug Education Policy

#### **Rationale & School Statement:**

St Anne's Primary School gives the highest importance to the welfare of pupils. An important aspect of this is to ensure that pupils are educated about the use and misuse of drugs so that they are able to make informed choices and develop a healthy lifestyle.

#### **Aim:**

The aim of this policy is to provide information on what, how and when drug education will be taught across the school.

#### **Definition:**

The National Curriculum defines the word 'drug' as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines. Any drug can potentially be harmful. The objectives that should be met by the end of KS2 are as follows:

- Pupils should feel comfortable in discussing their perception of drugs.
- Pupils should have a good understanding of medicines and other drugs and how they are used.
- Pupils should have developed their decision making skills and be able to make informed choices.
- Pupils should be equipped with factual information about drugs which are related to their age.
- Pupils should have an increasing responsibility to maintain their own health.

#### **Organisation:**

Drug Education is mainly taught within the subjects Science & PSHCE.

In Key Stage 1 & Year 3, drug education is taught at a very basic but essential level. This is focused on the children learning about medicines i.e how medicines can make us better if taken sensibly and when prescribed by a doctor. Also, the dangers of taking too much medicine or unprescribed medicine. In addition, in KS1 the children learn never to place anything in their mouth if they do not know what it is.

In Year 4, the children learn about smoking and explore issues around why people smoke, the dangers of smoking and the long-term effects of smoking.

In Year 5, the children learn about drugs and explore why people take drugs, the dangers of taking drugs and the long and short-term effects of drugs. They also look at the definition of word 'drug' and talk about the use and misuse of common household products. In addition, the children will explore issues on alcohol. This will include looking at attitudes and values about alcohol, learning about both the long and short-term effects, discussing issues around drink driving and learning about measurements and units.

The children in Year 6, re-visit the teaching in Years 4 & 5, in addition to looking at specific types of drugs and how they are used.

#### **The Role of Parents/Carers:**

Because of the sensitive nature of teaching drug education, before a drug education session takes place, a letter will be sent home to parents/carers informing them of the date and time that the teaching will occur. If a parent/carer wishes to speak to the class teacher to obtain more information about the session, they are welcome to make an appointment.

If a parent/carer does not wish their child to participate in any drug education session then the parent/carer should make an appointment with the Head of School/Executive Headteacher so that this can be discussed further.

#### **Safe Environment:**

Before any sensitive session regarding drug education, the teacher will talk to the children about session rules. These are as follows:

- Be respectful of your peers.
- Don't be afraid to ask questions.
- Use appropriate and correct terms/language.
- Don't share any personal stories. Don't use names.
- Speak to a member of staff after the session if you wish to talk privately about anything in more detail.

#### **Confidentiality:**

Whereas staff members will be as respectful and as confidential as possible, if a child says something which is of a child protection nature, the member of staff has a legal responsibility to speak to the school's child protection officer, with further action being taken if necessary. The child will be informed of this before a disclosure is taken.

#### **Responsibility:**

It is the responsibility of the PSHCE Co-ordinator to ensure that all staff are confident with the teaching of drug education and that they are fully trained to do so in a professional manner. It is also the responsibility of the co-ordinator to ensure that there are sufficient resources for teachers to use and draw information from.

It is the responsibility of all staff members to seek support if they feel uncomfortable or unsure about any teaching and learning in the area of drug education.

#### **The Role of the Community:**

The school works closely with the school nurse and other health professionals to ensure that they are fully up-to-date with the teaching of drug education and for them to provide essential training and professional CPD to all staff members delivering this curriculum.

The school nurse visits the school regularly. Any parent/carer or pupil can discuss with her, any health related issue, including drug education privately.

#### **Additional Policies:**

Other policies linked to this policy are: Child Protection, Safeguarding, PSHCE & Science Policy.

**Policy Written:** September 2017

**Policy Review:** September 2019