



St Laurence School Policy on Drugs Education 2017

Introduction

The Governing Body is committed to the encouragement of legal, moral and healthy lifestyles. In particular this policy supports the “Stay Safe and Be Healthy” outcomes expected within The Children’s Act 2004 and 2012, Wiltshire LA Guidelines for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship and the School Policy on Child Protection.

Our mission is to develop young people with active and creative minds. Within the context of our Christian foundation we aim to foster a sense of understanding and compassion for others, and the courage to act on our beliefs.

St. Laurence strives to be an outstanding school, offering a broad and challenging education to meet the needs of all students. We are committed to inspiring students to achieve the highest standards of intellectual and personal development through a stimulating and comprehensive curriculum.

Within a caring, respectful, inclusive community, we cultivate a desire to learn, take risks and accept challenges. We want our students to be resilient and adaptable, equipped with the knowledge, skills and curiosity to continue their education and become fulfilled, confident, socially responsible adults.

We care. We inspire. We succeed.

Meaning

Drugs are defined as “substances people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents, so called “legal highs” and medicines.

Drugs Education (DE) is about developing in young people a sense of responsibility for themselves and to society. It provides knowledge and skills which are intended to help students maintain a law-abiding, moral and healthy way of life including the avoidance of harm to self and others.

Rationale

It is the Governors’ aim to help all students take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. It is recognised that some drugs have beneficial effects, but that every drug has potential to harm. In order to be able to make informed life choices, all students need to understand the nature of drugs and their effects.

Provision

The DE programme of study is designed by the Head of Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and includes delivery by specialist PSHE teachers. Representatives of relevant external agencies are also involved and provide information alongside the Community School Nurse. The programme is delivered to all students with particular emphasis at Key Stage 3 and 4. Students have a regular voice on these issues through the School Council and the PSHE and Tutorial Programme.

School based and LA training is provided for teachers and other relevant staff. The curriculum includes opportunities for students to develop the skills and knowledge they need to make informed decision about

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the risks of substance misuse. Representatives of relevant external agencies are also involved in delivering the programme. Through DE the school addresses:

Attitudes and values

Students are helped to examine their own and other people's attitudes and values and to respect the rights of others to their own opinions. DE can help students to develop a good self-image and high self-esteem, responsibility and the ability to make informed decisions.

Personal and social skills

DE encourages the acquisition of skills and knowledge so that students' decisions and relationships with others may be positive, fulfilling and respectful.. It provides opportunities to develop communication skills, assertiveness within a range of different situations and recognise opportunities to develop a healthy lifestyle.

Knowledge and understanding

DE provides information of different types of legal and illegal drugs and the reasons people might misuse drugs and the effects/ risk of their use.

Materials used in schools are prepared in accordance with the PSHE framework and the law. Care is taken to ensure that students are protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate, having regard to the age and cultural background of the students. The school recognises the need to begin with students' own experiences, beliefs and values and, therefore, places a high importance on creating a supportive and secure atmosphere where they can develop the confidence needed to talk, listen and think about substance misuse. In order to do this, teachers work within the current code of conduct within Teacher Standards 2013 Dfe which states that teachers must not undermine certain values, including "mutual respect" and "tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs". During lessons teachers:

- Establish ground rules with students
- Emphasise the importance of mutual respect
- Require no open personal disclosures in a class setting
- Use distancing techniques
- Encourage reflection

The programme of study ensures that awareness of the Governors' policy on Drug Related Incidents is promoted to the School community.

Safeguarding Children

This policy complies with the Safeguarding Policies adopted by the School as on the web site. Reference is made to the Governors' policy on Illegal & Unauthorised Drug Related Incidents. Support can be accessed via the School pastoral system.

Monitoring and Evaluation

DE is monitored by the Head of Personal, Social and Physical Education (PSPE) and appropriate members of senior staff. The nominated DE governor also has some responsibility for compliance with requirements in parallel with the National Curriculum KS4 Programme of Study in Science.