



# **Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School**



## **Pupil Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy**

Date of policy: May 2023

Next Review: May 2024



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### **Mission Statement**

At Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on being a culturally diverse family. We seek to instill, in every child that we nurture, the joy and wonder of learning.

As we journey together with Christ, we develop children's resilience, intellectual curiosity and creativity through our positive learning behaviours. We nurture and cherish the unique talents of all, empowering them to flourish and grow into life-long learners.

Our mission is to show love, promote learning and belief in God our Father.

### **LOVE – LEARN – BELIEVE**

### **Statement of intent**

Blessed Dominic Catholic Primary School is committed to keeping pupils safe from drugs and alcohol, both on our premises and in the wider community. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol. The school maintains the view that alcohol and drug use on school premises is entirely unacceptable. We are aware of the increasing problem of drug misuse throughout the country and within our community. Our school will play a full part in contributing to efforts across our community to reduce drug misuse. To this end, we are committed to working with our parents. We will ensure parents are informed about their children's drug education, the school rules in relation to drugs and have the opportunity to be consulted about the school's policy and teaching programme.

For the purposes of this policy, a "drug" is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works.

This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances



- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

We are committed to:

- Providing a safe and healthy environment for the school community.
- Providing a robust policy which outlines our approach to supporting pupils struggling drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

### 1. **Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- DfE (2021) 'Keeping children safe in education 2021'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy
- COSHH Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Drug and Alcohol Policy

### 2. **Roles and responsibilities**

**The governing board is responsible for:**

- Ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place to make sure that pupils are kept safe from alcohol and drugs at school.
- Ensuring that this policy is maintained and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with alcohol and/or drugs can access the support they need.
- Working with the headteacher, and in liaison with staff, parents, pupils, health and other professionals, to ensure that the relevant curricula, e.g. RHE and PSHE, addresses the needs of pupils and the local community, and reflects current trends.



- Ensuring that the designated safeguarding governor submits an annual written report to the governing board concerning drug- and alcohol-related incidents and concerns.

**The headteacher is responsible for:**

- The day-to-day management of this policy.
- Providing a safe environment for all members of the school community.
- Working with governors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Informing the governing board, via the designated safeguarding governor, of any issues and developments concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs and alcohol.
- Informing parents of any drug- and alcohol-related incidents concerning their child, where appropriate and where doing so will not place the child at risk.
- Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- Informing the police of any drug- or alcohol-related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug and alcohol incidents.

**The DSL is responsible for:**

- Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs and alcohol.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs and alcohol education.
- Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

**Staff are responsible for:**

- Attending scheduled training concerning drugs and alcohol, including how to spot the signs and symptoms of use and dependency, identifying paraphernalia, and how to respond to a drug related incident.
- Reporting concerns regarding pupils' use of drugs and alcohol to the DSL.

**The site manager is responsible for:**

- Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the DSL.
- Adhering to the Sharps Policy at all times when handling needles found on school premises.

**Pupils are responsible for:**



- Ensuring they do not bring illegal or prohibited drugs or alcohol onto school premises or whilst engaged in any off-site activity representing the school.
- Ensuring they do not take drugs or consume alcohol whilst travelling to or from school.
- Contributing to the development of this policy by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol education provided, and on how incidents are managed.

External agencies are responsible for supporting the school with drug and alcohol issues as required.

### **3. Staff training**

The school recognises that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive training in identifying the signs that a pupil may be at risk annually, at the start of each academic year.

Staff will receive formal training during their induction and will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

### **4. The curriculum**

All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the relationships and health education curriculum, in line with the Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy.

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

The aims of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco education are to enable the children to:

- Promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping ourselves safe
- Promote a sense of responsibility towards the use of drugs
- Develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug use.
- Develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- Develop critical thinking as part of decision-making
- Develop an understanding of drugs and of the effects and risks of using drugs
- Gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use

### **5. Specific types of drug**

#### **Smoking**

In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006 and the school's Smoke-free Policy, the school is a smoke-free environment. Parents, visitors and staff will not smoke on school grounds and must avoid smoking in front of pupils. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields and sheltered areas.

#### **Legal drugs and prescribed medicines**

The school recognises that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and the school will request all relevant information about pupils' medical conditions from parents.



Medicines will only be permitted to be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. The school will only accept medicines which are provided in the original container as dispensed and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.

Further guidance can be found in the school's Administering Medication Policy.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them. More information can be found in the school's COSHH Policy.

## **6. Pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol**

The school is committed to educate and make children aware of the dangers and influences they could encounter i.e. county lines. The school's PSHE scheme supports this. Year 6 visit Canada Villa, which also supports their transition to KS3.

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be escorted to the head teacher's office, where they will be assessed.

The school will decide whether it is appropriate to notify the pupil's parent – parents will generally be informed unless the school feels there is a safeguarding concern which means that telling the pupil's parent may put them at risk. Where the school determines parents should be notified, they will be contacted and asked to remove the pupil from the premises. The pupil will remain in the head teacher's office until their parent/carer arrives. Should a child need to be interviewed by an officer a member of staff will always be present.

## **7. Medical emergencies**

In drug- or alcohol-related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned and care will be provided in line with the First Aid Policy. A staff member will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives. Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area as soon as is reasonably practicable. Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made as to whether an ambulance will be called. The pupil's parent will be telephoned and told about the incident.

An Unauthorised Drug Use Reporting Form will be completed.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services will be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported to the HSE as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy. The Medical Emergency Procedure will be followed at all times.

## **8. Threatening behaviour**

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, the school will contact the police where necessary.



Any pupil displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises. If a pupil displays this kind of behaviour, their parents will be contacted and sanctions will be implemented in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **9. Searching**

Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item. Staff members may use common law to search pupils for any item with their consent.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.

All searches will be conducted in line with the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, and the Physical Intervention Policy where physical contact with a pupil is required.

## **10. Controlled substances**

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation alongside the name of any witness(es) present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location.

The incident will be reported immediately to the police, who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.

The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether it is appropriate under the pupil's specific circumstances to divulge the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken, and names will not be given to the police where the school cannot be certain beyond reasonable doubt that the pupil in question was the one in possession of the drugs.

A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher.

Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the parents of the pupil, as well as local police, will be notified.

## **11. Safeguarding**

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.



All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

## **12. Managing incidents**

Instances of pupils being involved in drug and/or alcohol incidents will be managed in line with the relevant school policies, including the Behaviour Policy and Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Following an incident, the headteacher will work with key members of staff, including the DSL, to decide on the most appropriate course of action to take. This action may include discipline being enforced in line with the Behaviour Policy, or informing the police in severe circumstances.

The headteacher will also be responsible for deciding if it would be appropriate to exclude the pupil, following the provisions outlined in the school's Exclusion Policy; however, every effort will be taken to support pupils to adopt more healthy behaviours and choices before resorting to exclusion. Exclusion will be avoided wherever possible for pupils whose parents or carers are known to the school to misuse alcohol and drugs.

Support will be arranged for pupils involved in any alcohol- or drug-related incidents, in line with relevant school policies.

## **13. Monitoring and review**

This policy will be reviewed annually by the headteacher in liaison with the DSL and the PSHE Subject Leader. Any changes to this policy will be communicated to staff and the governing body. The next scheduled review date is May 2023.

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|---------------------------------|--|--------------|--|
| <b>Headteacher:</b>             |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |
| <b>Chair of Governing Body:</b> |  | <b>Date:</b> |  |