

Drug Education Policy 2020

Marish Academy Trust



Approved by:

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May 2022

Introduction

Marish Academy Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Research has shown that by the age of 11 many primary school children have extensive knowledge of the world of drugs. For some, this knowledge may be inaccurate and incomplete, for others it will develop through personal experience. The 1995 white paper 'Tackling Drugs Together', and the updated 1998 Tackling drugs to build a better Britain, stated that schools had an important role both in reducing the misuse of drugs and minimising their health risks.

Drugs education should contribute to:

- Increasing the safety of communities from drug related crime
- Reducing the acceptability and availability of drugs to young people
- Reducing the health risks and other damage related to drug misuse

At Marish Academy Trust, we believe that drugs education should provide: -

- Accurate information presented simply and clearly
- Informative and accessible reading materials
- Access to other adults besides teachers, providing they are expert and credible
- Stimulating and enjoyable classroom tasks
- Opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding in a challenging and safe atmosphere where they feel secure enough to play a full and active part

We aim to provide a consistency of approach throughout the school and to encourage children to develop knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life and to stress the benefits of a healthy lifestyle. At Marish Academy Trust we encourage children to develop positive attitudes and values and to ensure that Health and Safety procedures are followed when dealing with incidents/equipment related to drugs and drug use. Welfare of pupils is paramount and procedures and policies are designed to reflect this commitment.

Policy Statement

1. Marish Academy Trust encourages individual pupils to take responsibility for their own spiritual, personal and moral development by providing knowledge and an understanding of drugs, so enabling them to make healthy choices including robust refusal.
2. Marish Academy Trust does not support the misuse of drugs in any form by members of the Trust and will inform the police immediately if we believe there is any intent to supply such substances, illegally.

Marish Academy Trust is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The Trust takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Development of every pupil.

3. Marish Academy Trust acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and seeks to encourage pupils in need of support to come forward.
4. Fundamental to our Trust's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times.

Aims

- To develop children's personal and social skills including refusal and decision making skills.
- To help children take increased responsibility for themselves and their actions.
- To encourage children to value themselves and others.
- To encourage children to help and support others.
- To encourage children to work cooperatively in active learning and group work.
- To clarify what children already know, give information to clarify facts and correct false knowledge and beliefs.
- To help children deal with the effect of media coverage of issues relating to drugs.
- To support staff in dealing with issues and incidents relating to drugs and drugs use.
- To ensure all staff are aware of procedures relating to drugs and drug use at Marish Academy Trust.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and identify the distinction between authorised and unauthorised drugs.
- To develop and equip pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to build their resilience and avoid peer group pressure or unwanted drug offers from others.
- To build pupils' decision-making skills and increased self-esteem.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Definition

At Marish Academy Trust, 'drugs' include any substance that affects your body. This includes socially acceptable and unacceptable drugs. These will include:

Alcohol, Medicines, Smoking, inhaling and sniffing tobacco or other drugs or substances, Ingesting or injecting illegal substances.

Role of Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs education policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. It is also the Headteacher's role to ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies regarding the Trust drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the policy and work within this framework.

The role of governors

The governing body has the responsibility of setting down these general guidelines on drugs education. The governors will support the Headteacher in following these guidelines. The Trust leadership will inform and consult with parents about the drugs education policy. Governors will also liaise with the Local Authority and health organisations so that the Trust's policy is in line with the best advice available.

The role of parents

Marish Academy Trust is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents of children at our schools through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation.

In promoting this objective, we will:

- Inform parents about the Trust drugs education policy and practice;
- Invite parents to view any materials used to teach drugs education in our schools;
- 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 our schools;
- Encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the Trust 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.

Resources

Drugs education is part of the planned PSHE curriculum and is also delivered through the teaching of Science and The Choices Programme (a programme designed in conjunction with Thames Valley Police). The PSHE framework outlines the areas to be covered each year.

- At KS1 about the role of drugs and medicines
- At KS2 that tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can have harmful effects

Cross-curricular links

Drug education has many cross-curricular links, with science making a particular contribution. However, the development of life skills is a theme throughout the curriculum, within the programme for Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE), and enshrined in the values, which are embodied in the schools' ethos. There are links to other subjects, such as physical education, and aspects of school life, notably the spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of the curriculum.

Teaching

Our approach to drugs education is one which children are given information in the belief that increased knowledge about drugs and the risks will empower children to make informed and safe decisions. We approach this in a sensitive manner appropriate to the age and experiences of the children concerned. Teaching is: -

- Well resourced
- Reflects the needs and experiences of pupils
- Uses a range of teaching methods including group work, discussions, videos and outside speakers
- Reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles
- Flexible and relevant
- In the context of a wider PSHE programme
- Interesting and stimulating
- Informed.

Outside visitors

If outside speakers are used in any aspect of the drugs education programme, their contribution will be properly planned. They will support the work of the teacher who will meet with the speaker beforehand to plan the work and explain the Trust's policy on drug education. Teachers will be present and involved in all sessions and will evaluate the work afterwards. The teacher has overall responsibility for the session and the work planned.

Training, monitoring and evaluation

Teaching and learning is monitored in relation to this agreed policy and the Trust's Teaching and Learning policy. The PSHE coordinator has responsibility for monitoring drug education teaching and learning in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Managing drug related incidents

Incidents are managed in the context of the Trust's commitment to: -

- The safety and welfare of all pupils and staff
- The welfare of individuals deemed to be at risk
- The law concerning drugs

The Headteacher retains the responsibility for deciding how to respond to particular incidents in conjunction with the Safeguarding Lead. This will take account of the individual concerned and whether they are a pupil, parent or member of staff.

The Trust's policy is that 'no individuals should be under the influence of drugs (as detailed in this policy) while on the schools' premises or whilst supervising children off site in a professional

capacity'. This may be waived should a doctor's note be provided, indicating that this does not affect the individual's capacity to perform their duties or take care of children in their charge alongside the completion of a risk assessment should this also be required. This is also applicable in the case of pupils whilst they are under the care of Marish Academy Trust.

Appendices 1, 2 and 3 outline the procedures to be followed in individual circumstances.

All incidents are recorded in the incident monitoring log or reported to appropriate external agency.

All members of the Trust community are aware of these procedures and the implications for individuals.

Young children who are deemed to be at risk will be treated in relation to the Trust's policy on Child Protection.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Reviewing:

- Senior managers are involved in monitoring and evaluation.
- Pupils, staff, parents/carers and governors are consulted and the programme and policy are modified where appropriate.
- There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the programme, teaching methodologies and learning outcomes to ensure that needs are met.
- Drug education is reviewed in line with current Local Authority and Government guidelines.

Review and Governing Body Approval

This policy is reviewed by all staff and governors and approved by the Strategic Board once every two years.

| Version | Approved | Next Review |
|---------|------------|-------------|
| 1.0 | March 2013 | March 2015 |
| 2.0 | March 2015 | March 2018 |
| 3.0 | March 2018 | March 2020 |