



# BISHOP PERRIN CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## Drugs Education Policy

*Our school is a Church of England School and works in partnership with our two local parish churches, St Augustine's and St Philip and St James'. We aim to reflect the values, traditions and beliefs of the Christian Faith and therefore our Spiritual Values underpin everything that we do.*

### Aims and Objectives

At Bishop Perrin we aim to equip children with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle. Our drugs education programme has the primary objective of helping children to become more confident and responsible young people. Children are taught the dangers to health posed by drug-misuse, and we aim to equip them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs in society.

The objectives of our drugs education programme are:

- to provide children with knowledge and information about legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco) and illegal drugs
- to develop the children's understanding that drugs can have beneficial as well as harmful effects on people's lives
- to help children respect their own bodies and, in so doing, reduce the likelihood that they will be persuaded to become involved in drug abuse
- to enable children to discuss moral questions related to drug taking, and so provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas
- to enable children to consider and discuss the influence that media, culture and peer group pressure may have
- to let children know what they should do if they come across drugs, or are aware of other people misusing drugs
- to help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives
- to ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents, governors and staff.

### Definitions

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

For the purposes of this document, the term "drug" can include the following substances: alcohol, tobacco, solvents, prescribed drugs, over-the-counter medicines, illegal drugs.

### Curriculum and School Organisation

At Bishop Perrin we regard drugs education as a whole-school issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of living a healthy lifestyle occur throughout the curriculum. Teachers answer questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur. In the routine circle-time sessions, we encourage children to discuss issues that are important to them, and we help children to be aware of the dangers of the misuse of drugs. For example, if a child raises the issue of smoking, the teacher takes time to discuss its harmful effects with the whole class.

In science and PSHE lessons, we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. The children learn that due care needs to be taken even with prescribed drugs, and that misuse can have harmful effects. As the children become older, they also learn the difference between legal and illegal drugs. Across both Key Stages, the science and design and technology curriculums provide opportunities for children to extend their knowledge and understanding of what is meant by good health and healthy living. The children are given opportunities to discuss various issues relating to healthy living and are encouraged to make informed and responsible decisions.

Drugs education is an important part of our school's curriculum. The main teaching about drugs takes place in Year 6, where the children are taught about legal and illegal drugs, and the dangers involved to those who take them. The BBC Active Drug Education pack is used as the main resource for Year 6. In teaching this course we follow the guidelines provided by the Government ([DfES Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004](#)), and we receive advice and support from the School Nurse. Lessons that focus on drug education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed, once again, to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The teaching style that we use at Bishop Perrin encourages children to ask questions and reflect on the dangers to health of drug misuse. As part of this unit of work, children explore issues such as why people take drugs, and how they can avoid putting themselves in danger in the future. The children are given the opportunity to talk in groups and in whole class situations. They are encouraged to listen to the views of others, and they explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

### The Role of Parents

At Bishop Perrin we believe that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents and carers. We aim to build a positive and supportive home-school relationship, where mutual understanding, trust and co-operation enable children to learn to respect themselves and others, and where they feel confident to make decisions based on knowledge & information gained.

In promoting this objective we:

- inform parents about the school's Drugs Education Policy and practice
- answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school
- take seriously any issues that parents raise with teachers or governors about this policy or the arrangements for drugs education in the school
- encourage parents to be involved in reviewing the school policy
- inform parents about the best practice known with regard to drugs education
- inform the parents of any drug related concerns the school may have about their child

### The Role of Governors

The Curriculum and Achievement Committee of the governing body monitors our Drugs Education Policy on a regular basis. The Curriculum and Achievement Committee gives serious consideration to any comments from parents about the drugs education programme, and will make a record of such comments. The committee will report any recommendations or modifications to the full governing body.

### The Roles and Responsibilities

The head teacher has an overall responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of this policy, in consultation with the PSHE Subject Leader.

Staff will receive training as appropriate. The PSHE Subject Leader will liaise with external agencies (School Nurse, LA) regarding the school drugs education programme and ensure that all adults who work with children on these issues are aware of the school policy, and work within this framework.

### Access to the Policy

The Drugs Education Policy is available to parents on the School website. Paper copies are available on request from the School Office.