



## **Drugs Education Policy**

Reviewed October 2016

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. We teach children about the dangers to health posed by drug taking, 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 illegal drugs and the harmful effects they can have on people's lives;
- 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 help children become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed decisions about their lives;
- To let children know what they should do if they come across drugs or are aware of other people misusing drugs;
- 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 show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices.

### **Organisation**

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. Each class teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately as they occur. In 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 lessons, we teach children what a drug is, and how drugs are used in medicine. We also teach them the difference between legal and illegal drugs.

The main teaching about drugs takes place in our whole school sessions with the LifeBus (Coram Education) which visits yearly.

### **The role of the 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. The Headteacher will liaise with external agencies 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.

### **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 role of parents**

The school 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 school through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. In promoting this objective we will

- Inform parents about the school's drugs education policy and practice;
- Invite parents to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our school;
- 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 the school.