

# **St. Anne's Primary School**

## **DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The fundamental principle of our Drugs Education Policy is that the misuse of drugs, including solvents, runs counter to our belief in the sacredness of human life, the responsibility to ensure the health of each individual and our commitment to the growth and personal development of every child in our care.

Research has shown that personal inadequacy, lack of esteem and peer pressure are among the main reasons for young people's indulgence in drug misuse. This places a responsibility on the school to "better prepare young people for adult life" (Education Reform NI Order 1989).

### **RATIONALE**

One of the school's strategic aims is to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils. In trying to do so, schools have the responsibility to equip their pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle the personal and moral issues affecting their lives. At St. Anne's, drug education is taught as part of the school's ongoing Personal Development (P.D.M.U.) and Religious Education curricula.

### **AIMS**

The overall aim of our drug education policy is to prevent young people from engaging in the misuse of drugs.

To this end the school, through its curricular programmes and other guidance activities, will endeavour to help pupils:-

- develop their knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals – their strengths and limitations, abilities, skills, personal qualities, potential, needs, attitudes and values;
- develop skills, attitudes and abilities which will enable them to be effective in dealing with the drug culture;
- develop independence of mind and take responsibility for their own lives;
- develop self-reliance, self-discipline and self-respect;
- develop communication and decision-making skills.

## **OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of drug education are best viewed within a framework that encompasses knowledge and skills underpinned by the development of personal attitudes, qualities and values. In this way it will be possible to involve young people and influence their personal behaviour.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

Among others a Drugs Education Programme would seek to develop:-

- understanding of the physical and emotional consequences of taking drugs;
- understanding of the nature of addiction;
- understanding of the biological effects of substances on the body;
- recognition of potential drug exploitation and how to take avoidance actions.

## **SKILLS**

The skills to be developed include:-

- development of a wide range of personal interests;
- competence in operating independently;
- competence in handling relationships;
- competence in making choices and informed reasoned decisions.

## **VALUES**

The approach offered is underpinned by the values implicit in the following:-

- every individual is unique;
- everyone who has the care of children has a responsibility to promote their physical, intellectual, moral and spiritual well-being;
- living in a healthy society requires that all individuals share responsibility for the well-being of others;
- self-discipline and independent thinking are necessary foundations for correct life choices.

This programme is delivered through PDMU, Religious Education, P.E., I.C.T. and charity visits e.g. Wally and Wise.