



St Faith's

Church of England
Infant and Nursery School

Drug Incidences Policy

"Our inclusive St Faith's family strives to enable all to achieve their full potential and inspire a community of hope and friendship. We seek excellence by ensuring a safe, respectful and flourishing learning community, where differences are celebrated and our genuine love and high expectations make a difference to all."

Oscar Romero "Aspire not to have more, but to be more."

Introduction

As a Church School, the distinctive Christian values of respect, compassion, trust, justice, friendship and community are promoted through the experiences we offer to all our pupils, to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding that they require to lead confident, healthy and independent lives. We promote the teaching and understanding of fundamental British values in order to prepare pupils for life in modern Britain. We positively teach the values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs and for those without faith. Teaching the fundamental British values helps the children to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of **Drug Incidences** in our school. It reflects the consensus of opinion of all members of staff. It is based on current practice and has the full agreement of the governing body. The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the Head teacher, teaching staff and support staff. It is our collective responsibility to raise awareness and that all policies are known, understood and used in an appropriate way.

We aim to care properly for the health, safety and welfare of all children at our school. It is important that within the boundaries of our school we provide a secure environment where parents, staff, pupils and visitors feel safe from harm.

Aim

Dealing with incidences related to the misuse of substances by children and adults can often cause staff anxiety, uncertainty or concern. It is important to recognise that your response can have a significant impact on the life of the child/person concerned. The aim of this document is to give staff a procedure to follow in order that if an incident occurs it can be handled safely and for the best of everyone involved.

Introduction

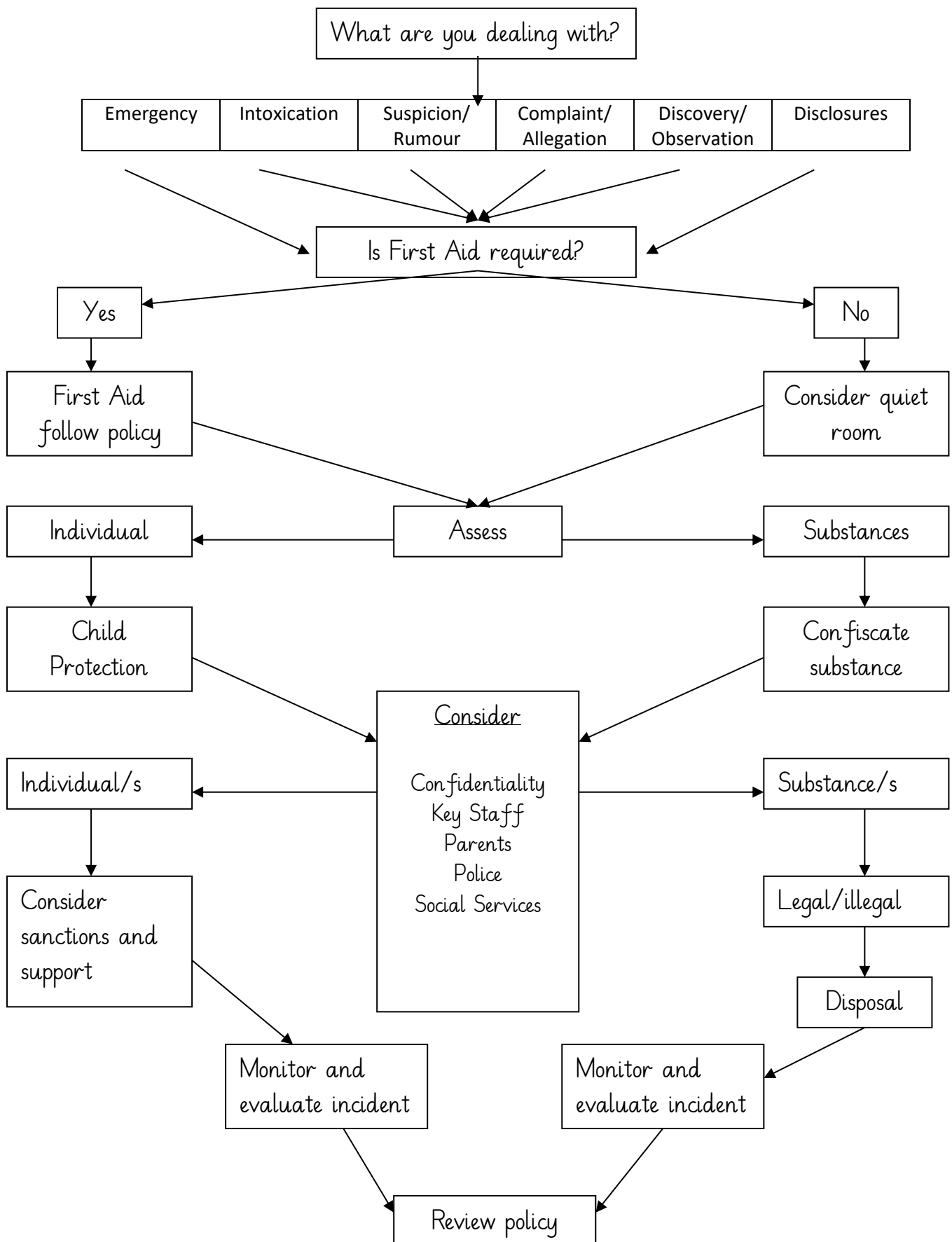
The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) states a duty to keep under review the situation in the UK with respect to the misuse of substances likely to have a harmful effect sufficient to constitute a social problem. It is important to note that possession of a controlled drug is an offence and any situations involving misuse of drugs should be dealt with seriously and effectively. Therefore, if an illegal substance is found on the premises, the police must be notified.

Procedure

It should be remembered that whenever an incidence occurs it should be treated as an individual situation and not get lost in a mechanistic response. However, staff should become familiar with the diagram overleaf, which provides a basic structure of steps to follow should they ever need to deal with an incident.

It is also important to listen to the people involved, try not to overreact, consider the facts very carefully and to feel free to take advice from other colleagues and professionals.

Guidance for Dealing with Drug Related Incidences



Definitions:**Emergency:**

When a child or other adult is in immediate risk of harm. This may involve a person being unconscious, having trouble breathing, being seriously confused or disorientated, or the taking of a harmful toxic substance.

Important to note – if a person is conscious ask them what happened and keep them warm and quiet. If they are unconscious ensure they can breathe, and if possible, place in the recovery position. Do not move in the likelihood of a spinal injury and do not leave unattended.

Intoxication:

This often does not relate to immediate emergencies but where a person is affected by taking a substance. This may be presented by showing light headedness or giggliness, mood changes, detached or aggressive behaviour.

Important to note – if possible, try to establish the substance which has been taken, particularly in the case of a child.

Suspicion or Rumour:

Suspicion or rumour of drug use should be treated with caution, consistency and thoroughness. It is potentially harmful and unjust to assume a rumour to be true, merely because it fits with common prejudices. Evaluate information as to whether it is witnessed action as opposed to rumour or hearsay, and whether from a reliable source.

Complaint or Allegation:

Information gained from a source. It is important that information gained in this way is evaluated consistently and thoroughly. Clarify whether there is a direct witness to events and whether it can be corroborated by others before taking any action.

Important to note – **If the allegation relates to the neglect or abuse of a child or young person it must be recorded and reported to the Safeguarding Leads in our school.**

Observation or Discovery:

This may include finding an individual in the possession of drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents or other suspect substances.

Important to note – if the said person is a child, the member of staff involved should obtain the substance, preferably in the presence of a witness.

Disclosure:

The direct or indirect admission of handling or using substances such as drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents or other suspect substances.

Important to note – children involved or affected by substance misuse will often see themselves as being in trouble rather than in need. It is vitally important that children feel there is an adult to whom they may safely turn, however, it must be made clear to the child that trusted adults may have responsibilities to report information to others.

Do not offer a child a level of confidentiality that cannot be kept.

Hypodermic Needle or Syringe

If ever you find a needle or syringe you must take action.

- Do not touch with bare hands,
- Do not let anyone else touch it,
- Do not hide it or kick it down a drain,
- Do not leave unattended, if possible,
- Do fetch an empty container and pick up with tongs, tweezers, pliers, or heavy duty gloves,
- Do put the sharp end into the container first,
- Do put the container away somewhere safe to await collection,
- Do inform your local environmental health department or local police to ask advise and report location of a needle,
- Do record the incident,
- Do check the area for other discarded items.

If someone is ever injured:

- Do not suck the wound,
- Encourage the puncture injury to bleed by squeezing,
- Wash well under cold running water without soap and cover with a dressing,
- Seek medical advice immediately,
- Inform parents.

Recording incidences

If ever an incidence does occur it is important for legal purposes that it is recorded correctly on an incident form. Only people who need to know should be informed of an incident for confidentiality purposes. For further information, see the confidentiality policy.

References to other policies:

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Confidentiality Policy

This policy was originally written with reference to the “Drug Related Incidence Guidance” document, produced by the Lincolnshire Drug Reference Group.

Safeguarding procedures

At St Faith’s we have a positive culture of safeguarding, with effective policies and procedures in place. Our safeguarding procedures are outlined in our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, which can be found on our website <https://stfaithscofe.secure-primariesite.net/safeguarding-information-and-policies/>.

Review

This policy will be reviewed yearly by the PSHE subject leader in light of any recent publications, training or changes to planning and assessment. It will then be approved by the governing body.

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| Approved by the governing body on: | September 2024 |
| Signed (Chair of Governors): | Dave Vincent |
| Signed (Subject Leader): | Amanda Konrath |
| Review Date: | September 2026 |