



Loreto Convent School

Gibraltar

DRUGS/SMOKING/VAPING POLICY

This policy reflects the ethos of Loreto Convent School and has been compiled and reviewed with the involvement of children, staff and Governors.

Statement of Intent

At Loreto Convent School we believe that smoking / vaping is harmful to health, and so we strongly discourage our children from smoking / vaping. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking establishment.

Rationale

Research shows that almost a quarter of all young people are regular smokers / vapers by the age of 15. Almost all adult smokers / vapers took up the habit when they were children. About 450 children a day take up the habit.

Smoking / vaping is regarded by the medical profession as the major cause of many illnesses. Children can be harmed by passive smoking and smoking is harmful to the unborn babies of mothers who smoke.

For all these reasons, our school does all it can to discourage children from smoking / vaping, and to educate them so that they grow up to lead a healthy lifestyle.

1 Aims and Expectations

Drugs education is an entitlement for all children.

1.1 We aim to:

- Help children know and understand the dangers of smoking / vaping, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies.
- Provide accurate information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking / vaping.
- Equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke / vape, either from their peer group or from society in general.

2. Organisation:

2.1 Drugs education is delivered by the class teachers as part of their personal, social and health education (PSHE) program in Year 6, with advice and support from the Health Authority.

In addition, in Year 6, a Drugs Awareness talk is delivered by RGP officers to further educate our children on the dangers of drugs.

- 2.2 As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking / vaping has on the body, we engage them in discussions about the reasons why people start to smoke / vape, and what they themselves might do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes / vapes.
- 2.3 The class teacher is to lead all of the discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people and to reflect on their own personal views with regards to smoking / vaping.
- While we explain that it is illegal to sell cigarettes / vapes to people under sixteen years of age, our aim is to help the children make their own decision not to smoke / vape simply because they believe it is the wrong lifestyle to choose.
- 2.4 The dangers of smoking / vaping sometimes arise in the Science curriculum at Key Stage 2 when children learn about the way in which substances affect their body. When such an issue arises, the class teacher deals with it in context and answers the children's questions to the best of his/her ability, taking care to explain that smoking / vaping is dangerous and should be avoided.

3 **Staff**

- 3.1.1 We do not allow smoking / vaping on the school premises, as we do not want to present smoking / vaping as acceptable. Nor do we wish to present adult smokers / vapers as role models.
- 3.1.2 Any adult wishing to smoke / vape must leave school site. Should we find any member of staff smoking / vaping at school, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

4 **Confidentiality**

- 4.1 Children are made aware that some information cannot be held confidential and made to understand that, if certain disclosures are made, action will ensue.

6. **Complaints**

- 6.1 Any concerns/complaints about the drugs education curriculum should be made to the Headteacher.

Seen by Governing Body: