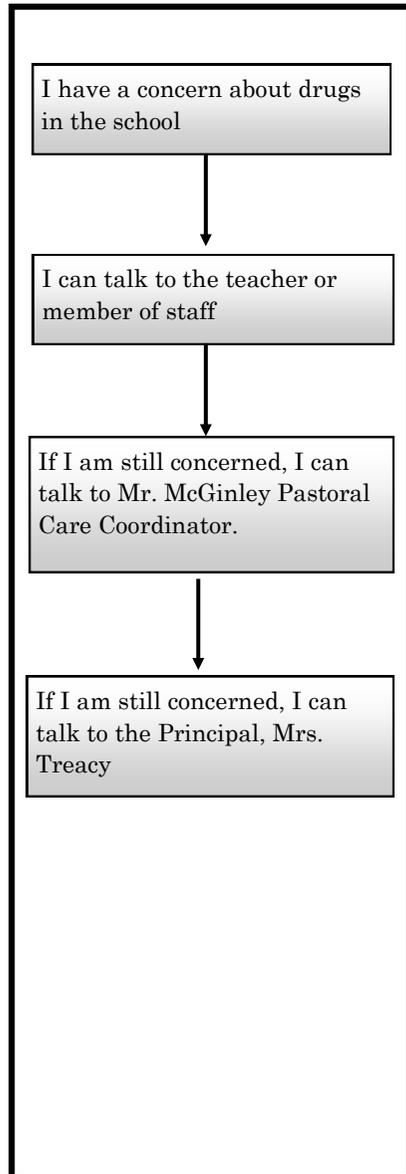


## How A Parent Can Express Concern



---

St. Joseph's Primary School  
54 Greystone Road,  
Antrim  
BT41 1JZ  
Phone: 028 94462076  
Fax: 028 94462076  
Twitter: @StJosephsAntrim  
Facebook: St.Joseph'sPrimarySchoolAntrim  
Website: [www.stjosephsps.org](http://www.stjosephsps.org)



## Drugs Education

*A Guide for Visitors and Parents*

*Article 33, 'Children have the right to be protected from the use of harmful drugs.'*

*St. Joseph's Primary School*

**'Faith, Friendship and Learning for Life'**

# School Policy

## WHY HAVE DRUGS EDUCATION IN ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL?

1. As part of our Health Education we should be promoting " healthy life styles".
2. Children are more open to drugs education before they might start using drugs.
3. Cigarettes and alcohol are "gateway drugs" ( i.e. Children who experiment with cigarettes and/or alcohol would be more inclined to experiment with other drugs ).
4. Prevention is preferable to cure.
5. Children are exposed to drug messages at an early age. This may come through the television/magazines/social media/music/family/friends.
6. Primary school children spend time in the company of older children and may be influenced by them.
7. A drugs education policy provides clear procedures for dealing with " incidents " in school.

### General Aim

St. Joseph's P.S. aims to promote good health among its pupils. In order to encourage a healthy and critical respect for all substances taken into the body we aim to help pupils develop the skills and attitudes to live drug free life styles.

### Drugs Definition

" A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way an individual behaves, feels or thinks".

Legal Drugs (e.g. alcohol, tobacco, solvents etc.)

Illegal Drugs (e.g. cannabis ecstasy etc.)

Illicit Drugs (e.g. adhesives/glues, aerosols, gas lighter fuels, petrol, cleaning/degreasing agents, poppers)

Prescribed Drugs ( those prescribed by doctors )

Over The Counter Medicines ( those which may be bought without prescription).

While acknowledging that some pupils may require prescribed medicines the school takes a very serious view of drugs and will not permit pupils to be in possession of drugs on the school premises.

### DISCIPLINARY MEASURES

Our school views very seriously pupils being in possession of drugs and would expect the support of parents in this matter. While keeping in mind the pastoral care element, appropriate disciplinary measures would reflect the seriousness of the School's viewpoint.

(Refer-School's Discipline Policy)

## MANAGEMENT OF PRESCRIBED DRUGS IN SCHOOL

### Issuing of Prescribed Drugs by Teachers NEB 1995/6-Issue

"As parents are responsible for the administration of medicine to their children they should be encouraged to administer prescribed drugs to his / her child outside of school hours, but if this not feasible the procedures for administration of prescribed drugs as stated in School's Pastoral Care Policy should be followed." i.e.

- Dose should be brought to the school by parent / guardian.
- Clear written instructions detailing name of pupil, name of medicine and dosage required.
- Written permission (signed consent form) for the staff to administer or supervise taking of medicine.
- Medicine should not be kept by pupil but should be kept securely in Secretary's Office (N.B. Where appropriate class teacher may keep a pupil's inhaler in a secure place in the classroom)

The school keeps a written record of the date and of the administration.