



## Drugs Education Policy

The aim of the drugs education policy is to acknowledge and clarify the college's role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, non-teaching staff and outside visitors.

A drugs education policy ensures that colleges take a whole college approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to being a healthy college. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and students, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the college's behaviour policy.

### Definition

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The college believes that the possession and use of drugs in college or during the college day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on college premises or during the college day, including when students are on college visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for the college. Individual exceptions may be made for students who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

### Drugs Education

The college provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of Personal, Social Health and Citizenship Education that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support

On the whole teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the college drug policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The college actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the Local Authority and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

