



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.

Statutory Duty of College

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Local Governing Body, parents, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Executive Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Implementation

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know students well, parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity. The college and parents/carers can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the Head of Year is appropriate action. The Head of Year should inform the Headteacher, and the college will usually inform the parents/carers.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a college cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, and also as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs Department.

The governing body will monitor drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the strategic direction of the college.

The college will consider each substance incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The college will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the student involved, the other college members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the college will follow the County Council Policy on drug and alcohol misuse, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Chief Executive Officer or Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the college may take appropriate advice and guidance from the Local Authority press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the college.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Local Governing Body will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the college.

ADOPTED BY THE GOVERNORS ON: March 2022

POLICY REVIEW DATE: March 2024