

TITLE: Drugs Education Policy

MODEL POLICY STATEMENT

This **is not** a Local Authority model policy

Policy Owner:	Vice Principal (Inclusion)	Review period:	Biannual
Last Review:	November 2014	Approving Committee:	Curriculum 19.11.2014
Next Review:	Autumn term 2016	Latest FGB adoption:	10.12.2014

IMPACT OF THIS POLICY

The impact on College targets of using this policy is as follows:

To raise awareness of drugs and their dangers with students to prevent occurrences of drug misuse. Issues relating to drug use are rare at the College as a result of this policy.

1. RATIONALE

The College will provide drugs education for the young people in the College. We acknowledge that some students may use / abuse drugs including alcohol and tobacco; they may be experimenting or they may be regular users. Education about drugs comes within the Health Education programme delivered through the Science National Curriculum course and the Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme. The aim of this Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the College's role in drug prevention and drug education.

All pupils are expected to exercise responsibility for their own behaviour and safeguard their own health throughout their time in the College and will be supported in this both through education and pastoral support.

2. PURPOSE

Definition:

The term 'drug' as used in this policy includes illegal substances covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The World Health Organisation classes a drug as "a substance which, on entering the body, changes the way that the body functions".

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD. Any drug can be potentially dangerous. Any drug, whether legal or illegal, can be misused. Clear distinctions between drug use and drug misuse are hard to draw. Misuse refers to harmful use, dependence or drug taking that is part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

It is important to recognise that the use of substances has different implications at different ages. It is important to acknowledge that harm can occur through any drug use whether through intoxication, illegality or health problems even though this may not be immediately apparent.

The College believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the College day is inappropriate. **All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained or used 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 but this should be recorded with the college Health & Multi Agency Co-ordinator in all cases.

Drugs Education:

The College provides a planned drugs education curriculum as part of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme and as part of the Science curriculum that reflects knowledge and understanding of attitudes and personal and social circumstances and 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 that are classed as drugs
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs
- Encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use or misuse

- 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
- Help raise and maintain student self esteem to enable informed choices to be made
- Help to develop appropriate links with carers / parents and outside agencies to support where required

On the whole, teachers will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the College drug policy when doing so. 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 LA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.