

This Policy has been developed to support the school's Mission Statement:-

Our mission is to provide a caring secure environment in which each pupil will receive a quality education.

A drug is any substance which, when consumed can have the effect of altering the way we feel, see, think or act. It will bring about a chemical change in the body.

- All illegal drugs i.e. these controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.
- All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, which have significance in relation to pupils, volatile substances (these giving off vapour or gas which can be inhaled). Ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrates (known as poppers) and GHB (gamma hydroxybutyrate).
- All over the counter and prescription medicines.

This policy is supported by a drug education programme across all year groups.

Drugs Education

Aim:

To give young people the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

Drugs education is a whole school issue and at Altrincham College of Arts there is a co-ordinated and consistent approach. The content and methodology are appropriate to the needs and maturity of all pupils. The content also reflects local circumstances and current knowledge and attitudes to drugs.

The whole school community is involved in training and support is provided for staff involved in the planning and delivery of the drugs education programme. There is also built into the programme review, evaluation and revision of both policies and programme.

Knowledge and Information

Key Stage 3
P.S.H.E

*School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.

*Information about legal drugs (including prescribed and over-the-counter medicines) and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks.

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Scientific terminology including the following words: use, misuse, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal, and adulteration.*Different categories of drugs – including stimulants, depressants, analgesics and hallucinogens.*The law relating to drugs. |
| PSHE Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*The effects of different levels of intake of alcohol. |
| Key Stage 4 PSHE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Advice and support within the locality, national helplines and organisations.*School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.*Information about drugs including their legal status, effects and appearance.*The services provided by local and national advice and support agencies. |
| PSHE Science | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Personal, social financial, biological, and psychological effects of drug misuse.*Patterns of drug misuse locally and nationally and the impact on the community and wider society.*Dangers associated with particular drugs, mixing of drugs, and specific environments and moods. |
| P.P. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*The misuse of drugs in sport.*Scientific terminology: use, misuse. |
| Skills Key Stage 3 PSHE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Identifying risks to health.*Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.*Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug misuse.*Managing conflict and aggressive behaviour. |
| Key Stage 4 PSHE | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Identifying and assessing risks.*Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.*Communicating drug advice to other young people.*Giving and securing help if needed for a variety of situations. |
| P.P. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">*Identifying risks to health. |

Attitudes
Key Stage 3
PSHE

- *Attitudes and beliefs about drugs and drug users among different groups in society.
- *Impact of the media and advertising on young people's thinking.
- *Attitudes towards drugs and laws relating to drugs.
- *Recognition of oneself as a role model and acceptance of responsibility for one's actions.

PSHE
P.P.

- *Taking responsibility for one's own, and other people's safety.

Key Stage 4
PSHE

- *Social and cultural influences on young people.
- *Attitudes towards drugs, drug users and misusers and laws relating to drugs, including licensing and retailing laws.

PSHE
P.P.

- *Individuals' responsibility for their own actions.

Drugs in School

With the exceptions of prescribed medicines which should be left at reception. The bringing of, or using drugs, or drug related equipment, on school premises is totally unacceptable and will be a very serious disciplinary matter.

The selling/dealing/sharing of drugs on school premises will result in permanent exclusion from school.

Pupils

1. Should have access to drug information at both key stages.
2. Should feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug related problem without fear of reprimand. They should also understand the limits of confidentiality that operate within the institution. Be able to support and know who to turn to if a friend or relative is experiencing a problem.
3. Should understand that 'drugs' should not be brought to, sold, passed on, shared or obtained on school premises or on holidays, field trips and visits organised by the school.
4. Should understand that deliberately breaking school rules is likely to result in serious disciplinary sanctions.
5. Should be aware of the possible long term effects of those sanctions, including the involvement of the police, the consequences of a conviction and the consequences of permanent exclusion from school.

6. Should understand the difference between voluntarily confiding a drug related problem, and being found deliberately breaking school rules on drugs.
7. Should report immediately to the designated members of staff in any case of feeling unwell in connection with drug usage.

Teachers

1. Should have access to information, training and expertise concerning drugs and drug use. Should be equipped to organise and deliver drug education within PSE and other areas of the curriculum.
2. Should counsel in privacy any pupil who confides a drug related problem.
3. Should usually regard this information as confidential except where it is considered that the young person is at particular risk, e.g. an issue of a child protection or a medical problem. The limits of confidentiality should be made known at the beginning of any counselling. Staff should not reprimand or punish in such a situation.
4. Should be aware that further support is available in school. They should feel obliged to consult with Heads of Learning and Personal Development and Pastoral Deputy or the Headteacher if necessary.
5. Should understand that the rules for pupils apply to teachers with the exception of alcohol which may be consumed in certain restricted areas or situations in the absence of pupils with the Headteacher's permission.
6. As employees they should expect disciplinary action to be taken if they contravene the code of conduct concerning drugs.
7. Know when to adopt a counselling or disciplinary approach towards pupils.
8. Should know the procedures concerning illness linked to known or suspected drug usage.
9. Know how to obtain help for pupils or their friends or family with drug problems.
10. Should confiscate any illegal drug and take advice on whether to destroy it (in presence of a witness) or pass it on to the Police.

Parents

1. Should have an awareness of what information is given to pupils and have access to it.

2. Should be aware of the school's rules concerning drugs. Should give their own guidance concerning drugs.
3. Should expect to be contacted if their child is caught breaking school rules on drugs.
4. Should understand that any immediate sanction is likely to be a school matter.
5. Should expect further action to take place after consultation with appropriate agencies.

Governors

1. Should have access to drug information and training.
2. Should endeavour to encourage a supportive atmosphere within the institution where young people feel able to confide a drug related problem.
3. Should be aware of their legal responsibilities about drugs on the premises.

Situations and Responses

Emergency: This situation is one where a person has lost consciousness as a result of drug use or has gone into a coma through overdosing.

1. Summon/Call staff preferably with first aid qualifications.
2. Do not panic or leave the person alone.
3. Place the person in the recovery position.
4. Send someone to telephone 999 for an ambulance.
5. Telephone parents.
6. The person's friend should be questioned to determine which substance has been used. Evidence, e.g. tablets, bottles, syringes etc. should be gathered. This may help hospital staff identify what substance has been consumed. Samples of any vomited material may also be needed.
7. Accompany person to the hospital if parents are not available.

Intoxication: It is difficult to talk to a person who is intoxicated or 'high' and in such a situation it is important to keep the person under observation so they do not wander off and get into dangerous situations. If a person is intoxicated but conscious, do the following;

1. Sit them down in a quiet room or area.
2. Ensure good ventilation – open a window.
3. Remain calm, do not shout or issue threats.
4. Help calm them down if they are distressed.
5. First aid should be administered if necessary.
6. Call help if necessary.
7. Telephone parents.

Discovery/observation: If a young person is discovered to be using or holding a substance that is not permitted on school premises or is thought to be illegal, the following action should be taken;

The person should be approached and the substance(s) confiscated. Those involved should be questioned. The action taken will then depend on the circumstances. (See below).

Disclosure: This situation is one in which a pupil discloses to a member of staff that he/she has been using drugs. The member of staff must bear in mind the likely desire of the pupil for total confidentiality and should react positively to this expression of trust. The paramount concern should be for the pupil's welfare and the likely effects of passing on the disclosed information must be carefully assessed. Staff should also be aware of the possible consequences of not passing on information if the pupils were to be harmed by taking illegal drugs.

Suspicion/Rumour: Staff should be wary about acting on the basis of rumours of drugs within the school. If there is a suspicion, evidence should be collected over a period before a decision is made to confront a young person or group about concerns over drug use. It is also dangerous to believe that the drug user can be spotted from physical or behavioural signs; many physical and behavioural changes may have more to do with adolescent growth or illness than with substance use.

There are occasions when we will need to contact the police and seek their advice. Trafford Division operate a system which enables the police to respond to a call for advice as soon as practicable, and in any case within 30 minutes. The sort of incidents which may need to be talked through with the police include;

- a) Where we suspect that students are bringing drugs into school, or arranging to bring drugs into school, with the intention of supplying them to other students.
- b) Where we suspect that the substance may be a Class A drug such as ecstasy, heroin or cocaine.
- c) Where we receive information about the supply of drugs, solvents, alcohol or tobacco to students in school, which may require further investigation by the police.

A request to the police for advice does not necessarily mean that we are committed to a law-enforcement approach to an incident in our school, or that the police will attend the school.

The counselling approach

In general, the counselling approach is the preferred action in a situation where a pupil is known to be using drugs. Counselling may be offered in school or through the Community Drugs Team.

If counselling is offered within school by a member of staff, an appropriate person may be the form tutor, Head of Learning and Personal Development, senior member of staff or teacher specifically requested by the pupil. The objectives of counselling in this instance are similar to those normally applied in pastoral situations:

- to provide a non threatening, non condemnatory atmosphere in a private situation within which a pupil is able to feel free to discuss personal issues;
- in a non directive way, to facilitate the process whereby a pupil can come to an independent decision about his/her problem, and situation;
- to assist the pupil in considering the options open to him/her and possible ways forward.

The pupil should be made aware that it may not be possible for the information given to remain totally confidential and that certain people may have to be informed but the confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people. It should also be made clear that disciplinary action as a result of the counselling session is extremely unlikely. Such action cannot, however, be ruled out completely as the reason for the disclosure or request for counselling might be quite different from what it first appeared to be, e.g. a disclosure made to one teacher shortly after a discovery made by another.

Gathering and recording information

Staff involved in dealing with drug related incidents should record information in the usual way. (Record of Interview/pupil referral sheets/Parental interview form). All drug incidents should be reported to the LEA using the appropriate pro-forma.

Supplying Drugs

Pupils should recognize that school is a no-go area for illegal substances, therefore, if a pupil is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises or during the school day or on a school visit, the pupil should expect to be permanently excluded and the police will be informed.

Review

Along with all policies this document will be reviewed on an annual basis by members of the Leadership Team in consultation with staff, parents, governors and pupils.

Appendix

This policy has been formulated after an extensive consultative period. Pupils have been involved (by analysis of the annual Pupil Feedback Questionnaire). Staff have contributed both before and after the training course (January 5th 1996). Governors and parents have also been consulted and have made contributions and suggestions. Ms Sandy Nesbitt (Trafford Health Education Co-ordinator) has also given invaluable assistance and advice.

Dissemination

Pupils, staff, governors, parents and the school nurse will have access to this policy. It is available from the School Office.

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By: MRY

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Useful Addressess

National Organisations

ADFAM NATIONAL

5th Floor, Epworth House, 25 City Road, London EC1Y 2AA. 0171-638-3700
Charity which supports the families and friends of drug users.

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS CENTRE

P.O. Box 6927, London E3 3NZ. 0171-510-0150

Source of free D.F.E. and S.C.A.A. publications on drug education.

I.S.D.D.(Institute for the study of Drug Dependence)

Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE. 0171-928-1211

The main source of up to date information about drug use in the U.K. They produce pamphlets and reports and the bi-monthly "Druglink" magazine. Also has

an excellent library service.

FRANK

0800-776600

Free, confidential advice 24 hours a day. Also can supply free Department for Health pamphlets on drugs for young people, parents and professionals.

RELEASE

388 Old Street, London EC1V 9LT. 0171-729-9904 or 0171-603-8654 out of hours.

Information and advice about legal and social aspects of drug use. Also provide a new DRUGS IN SCHOOL HELPLINE offering confidential advice to teachers, pupils and parents about drug incidents 0345-366666 office hours.

SCODA (Standing Conference on Drug Abuse)

Waterbridge House, 32-36 Loman Street, London SE1 0EE. 0171-928-9500

This is the national organisation concerned with local drug services. They can offer advice about the types of services on offer.

TACADE

1 Hulme Place, The Crescent, Salford M5 4QA. 0161-745-8925

Publishers of health education materials.

LOCAL NUMBERS

Alcohol Abuse: Tel. 0161-236-6569 42nd Street 0161-832-0170

Trafford Authority Community Drugs: Team Tel. 912-3052

Trafford (Trafford Young Persons Subs Misuse Service 0161-968-2820)