

DRUGS EDUCATION

Policy

The College promotes the health and safety of all who work in the College through the curriculum following the College code of conduct and through the implementation of the Health and Safety Policy.

The College is committed to supporting the welfare of the pupils and students in its care through its formal and informal pastoral structure. Pupils are given confidence to use these structures when they are in need of support. The best interests of the individual, as well as the needs of the College, are always taken into account.

Health Education has an important place within the Curriculum Enrichment and every pupil has an entitlement to participate in and benefit from health education opportunities.

The College does not condone the misuse of legal drugs or the use of illegal substances by either pupils or staff at the College, nor the illegal supply of them. The College takes appropriate steps to deal with any such incidents which may occur.

The College believes in the importance of the partnership with parents, with the local community and with the various specialist agencies in the matter of promoting a healthy lifestyle. As part of this effective and appropriate communication is an essential part of the procedures adopted for managing the drugs education programme in the College and for dealing with any drugs related incident.

The College supports the Leicestershire LA Policy Statement on Drugs Education Section 1. The past decade has seen an increase in the prevalence of drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable students to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance. The ability to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of drugs is part of a broad and balanced health education curriculum.

Principles

The Policy follows the framework provided by Leicestershire Local Authority.

In line with College principles covering participation and partnership, the following have been consulted in drawing up this policy:

Principal	Parents
Teaching Staff	College Nurse
Governors	Police

Information and help has been provided by the Healthy Schools Co-ordinator.

Purpose

The College drugs education programme is part of a whole College approach to health education. The aims are:

to give pupils knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

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Specifically the Drugs Education Policy aims to:

- promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health
- enable pupils to make informed choices
- seek to reduce risks to young people and reduce harm
- help pupils develop decision-making skills which will assist them in dealing with problems and pressures
- enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- provide accurate information about substances and increase understanding about the effects of their use and misuse
- widen understanding about related health issues e.g. crime, sex and sexuality, HIV and AIDS
- define the practice of how and who teaches what
- detail practice of how drug related incidents are handled
- define the practice of how training and support are provided to staff
- determine what the involvement of other agencies is
- determine what the involvement of parents is

Provision

The Drugs Education curriculum is delivered in three broad areas:

- through the Personal Development and Tutorial Programme
- through the modular curriculum programme in Year Nine Health Education
- through a range of curriculum areas, English, Drama, Science

Citizenship Programme

This programme is delivered by specialist citizenship teachers.

The form that this takes can involve general discussion and activities on the following topics:-

- Drugs and the College Code of Conduct
- The Building of Pupil Self Esteem
- Decision Making Exercises
- Assertion
- Risk Reduction
- The Impact of the Media
- Young People and "Image"
- Taking Responsibility for Ones Actions

Year Nine Health Education Module

Drugs education is part of this week long module and is taken by all Year Nine pupils. A number of health related issues are covered within the module including sex and relationship education, HIV and AIDS and contraception. (College Sex and Relationship Education contains details, see Policy Document).

A team of specialist teaching staff present the work and the College Nurse and police work closely with both staff and pupils.

Guidance, information and staff training are provided by a Health Promotion Officer from Leicestershire Health Promotion unit.

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Contents:

Information on Drugs
Street Names
Drug Recognition
The Effects
The Risks
The Law Relating to Possession and Dealing in Drugs
Risk Reduction

Information and activities for this work are drawn from a number of sources.

Other Curriculum Areas

English

A Year Nine debating topic in the Spring Term.
Year Seven and Eight, the topic of some novels and this leads to general discussion.

Arts

Year Nine the issue of substance abuse is studied. The focus is on:-

- Relationships
- Adolescence
- Motives for Use
- Crime and Drugs
- Personality Change
- Drugs and the Media

Science

The issue of substance abuse is covered within the National Curriculum for Science.

The content of the drugs education curriculum is consistent with the programme of study detailed in the National Curriculum statutory orders.

Staff Training

Staff training for those involved with the Health Education Module is led by an Officer from the Health Promotion Unit.

Practice

Dealing with Drugs Related Incidents

The College does not condone the misuse of legal drugs, including cigarettes and alcohol, nor the use of illegal substances by pupils and staff, nor the illegal supply of them. The College will take appropriate steps to deal with any such incidents which may occur.

The welfare and the best interests of the pupil are always taken into account and balanced against the needs of the whole College community in dealing with any drugs related incident. The College believes that in cases of misuse of substances, it is the behaviour, not the person, which should be seen as unacceptable.

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There are a variety of drug related incidents which may occur in the College or within the grounds:-

- Pupils asking questions about drugs
- Pupils talking about their use of drugs
- Pupils or staff finding drug paraphernalia on the College premises or grounds
- Pupils bringing drugs (or alcohol) into the College
- The use of drugs (or alcohol) on the College premises or grounds
- Information of pupils, their siblings or their parents using drugs

Where a member of staff encounters one of these or any other drug related incident their action should be guided by the following:

- 1 Staff that are looking after children under the age of 16 years are assumed to be acting "in loco parentis" and therefore have a duty to act as a responsible and wise parent.
- 2 In any situation the well being of the children is of paramount importance. Administer any (emergency) first aid that is necessary. Keep evidence that may assist in identifying substances that may have been consumed (including vomit) and ensure this evidence is made available to health professionals or accompanies the pupil to hospital.
- 3 Remove any dangerous substances or items.
- 4 If a pupil (or pupils) is/are found in possession of substances suspected of being a controlled drug, the member of staff should remove the substance and, in the presence of a witness, lock it away. Later it will be necessary to destroy the substance or hand it to an authorised person as evidence.
- 5 Gather any evidence that is readily available or which may not be available later.
- 6 Make a brief written record of what happened (use of pupil incident form).

The incident must be reported as soon as practically possible to the Principal or a Vice-Principal and, if requested, a Drug Related Incident form should be completed. This form is part of the drug related procedures. It need not in all circumstances form part of the pupil record.

A judgement needs to be made according to the individual merits of each case. The Principal determines what further action needs to be taken, including:

- interviewing pupils
- gathering further evidence
- informing parents
- informing the local education authority
- informing the police

Sanctions are then administered dependent on the particular circumstances. The Principal (or another senior member of staff) will, if s/he feels further action may be necessary, complete part B of the Drug Related Incident form. An action plan may be drawn up with the pupil, his/her parents and any appropriate outside support agency, aimed at making available the necessary help which could include counselling, medical help, education discipline. This support may be sought from any of the following:

- Senior Staff
- Team Leaders
- Tutors

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- The College Nurse
- Attendance Improvement Officer
- Leicestershire Community Drugs and Alcohol Services
- Literature and guidance from other agencies
- Pastoral Manager

Exclusion or other sanctions may be necessary. Consideration is given to the likely consequence(s) for the individual(s) concerned and his/her welfare, balanced against the needs of the whole College community.

The police are always to be told if illegal drugs or substances are being sold in the College.

Any inquiries from parents, outside agencies and the media are referred to the Principal.

Equality Monitoring

Thomas Estley Community College's commitment to equality and diversity means that this policy, via an Equality Impact Assessment, has been screened in relation to the use of gender-neutral language, recognition of the needs of disabled people, promotion of the positive duty in relation to race, age, disability and avoidance of stereotypes.

Based on the Equality Impact Assessment findings, this policy is judged to be of low impact against the equality strands of Race, Gender, Religion, Disability Sexual Orientation and Age. A copy of the Equality Impact Assessment of this policy is available from the Principal's PA.

This Policy is available in alternative formats on request. If you think we can improve the fairness of this Policy, please contact the individual who has responsibility for its update.