



Exmouth
Community
College
Academy Trust

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY (STUDENTS)

Policy Details	Date
Written by	Marianne Skinner
Reviewed by	Henri Miles
Ratified by	Curriculum Committee
Date agreed by Governors	23.01.24
Review Cycle	Annual
Review date	Spring 1 2025

Introduction

Responsibility for the maintenance and review of this policy will be shared by Governors, the Headteacher, (who will be responsible for co-ordinating response to any drugs-related incidents), SLT and the Citizenship, Personal, Sex and Relationships Education & Health Education (CPSHE) Co-ordinator.

The PSHE link governor is appointed annually to keep the Governing Body informed of new developments, to report back on action related to the policy, and to work with the Headteacher, CPSHE Co-ordinator and other agencies to keep policy and practice under regular review.

It is important to read this policy in connection with the Drug-related Incident Management Policy, as well as seeing them as parts of the overall CPSHE Policy framework.

The College defines the term drug as referring to all drugs including medicines, alternative medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs. The College believes that drugs education is an educational entitlement of all students and an integral part of each student's emergence into adulthood.

Context

Drugs Education cannot be separated from the wider policies and practices in the College, The ethos of the College, the Pastoral systems and structures, the curriculum, all support and underpin our policies in Drugs Education.

At all times, our policy has been developed in support of, and in the context of advice and the policy toolkit from Devon's Drugs Adviser, training provided by Devon Curriculum Services, and the latest Government guidelines.

Legal requirements of drugs education and incident management

Under the 2004 Children's Act.

Drugs Education makes particular reference to the following objectives:

- Children and Young People are physically healthy
- Children and Young People are mentally and emotionally healthy
- Children and Young People live healthy lifestyles
- Children and Young People choose not to take illegal drugs
- Children and Young People are safe from maltreatment, neglect, violence and sexual exploitation
- Children and Young People are safe from accidental injury and death
- Children and Young People are safe from crime and anti-social behaviour in and out of College
- Children and Young People engage in law-abiding and positive behaviour in and out of College
- Children and Young People develop self-confidence and successfully cope with significant life changes and challenges

The following brief document outlines our purposes and the main guidelines for Drugs Education. Detailed notes on the programme offered are contained in the relevant sections of the CPSHE policy (L42)

Purposes

- 1) To help students to make healthy, well-informed life choices.
- 2) To help students to become aware of other people's attitudes towards drugs and to develop their own attitudes and values.

- 3) To allow students to gain accurate knowledge and understanding about drug use and misuse, the risks and relevant legal and social issues.
- 4) To develop students' personal and social skills to help them resist peer pressure to experiment with illegal drugs.
- 5) To minimise the number of students who engage in drug misuse.
- 6) To enable any students who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about drug misuse to seek help.

Guidelines

- 1) Drugs Education will form part of the wider CPSHE curriculum of the College, and will be delivered mainly, but not exclusively, through CPSHE sessions.
- 2) Aspects of substance use and misuse, and the effects of substances are covered in the Programmes of Study for Science. Moral and Social issues related to Drugs may arise in a range of other subjects, including Religious Education, Drama and English.
- 3) Drugs Education may be delivered by a range of agencies, including the Youth Affairs Officer of the police, drugs support agencies, as well as by Tutors.
- 4) Programmes will be tailored to the age of the students.
- 5) The effectiveness of programmes will be reviewed regularly, using questionnaires and surveys, the Year Group Forum and by other means.
- 6) The CPSHE co-ordinator will work with other agencies to promote and provide resources for Drugs Education that:
 - ✓ Are up to date
 - ✓ Are related to students age and experience
 - ✓ Relate knowledge and understanding of drugs to attitudes, values and behaviour.
- 7) Opportunities will be provided within the programme to ensure that students feel able to ask all questions they may wish to ask, and that relevant professionals are available to provide answers.
- 8) Staff Training will be provided, where appropriate, in Drugs Education as part of on-going support and training for Tutors.
- 9) The College will work through the Academic Council to ensure curriculum continuity between Year 6 and 7 CPSHE programmes, in this as well as all other areas.

Note on Methodology

The provision of Drugs Education will take particular note of the final three conclusions from discussion with the pupil forum:

- Use of a range of agencies, including the Police and outside Drugs Support agencies
- Sessions will be active, not just watching films or completing worksheets
- Discussion of values rather than the transmission of facts will be paramount

Drugs Education will normally be provided through Tutor Groups. As with all aspects of CPSHE, special provision can and will be used where appropriate in support of pupils whose special needs make accessing aspects of the curriculum more difficult.

In addition CPSHE units will, wherever possible contain an "Any Questions" aspect, allowing pupils to ask questions of a range of outside "experts". At all times such visitors will follow the Visitor Guidelines Policy (see College policies). Honest and unbiased information should be given according to the agreed policy.

Individual advice about a student's personal use of substances is not appropriate; but the provision of information about other sources of information/support agencies/help-lines may be.

If staff suspect a pupil is at risk they will pass that information on to a designated safeguarding lead.

Discussion of "harm reduction" or the safer use of illegal substances, will not be dealt with as part of the College's overall teaching programme. However this may be a strategy used by some outside agencies to whom pupils already experimenting may be referred.

All staff will follow College guidelines on handling controversial topics. Pupils should be encouraged to see that many subjects can provoke a wide range of sincerely held views. Opportunities should be provided for pupils to explore these. In the context of drugs education, pupils need to be aware of the legal, medical and social position of drugs.

Tutors will not be asked to take on the role of "experts". Their role will essentially be facilitators - of investigation, discussion and analysis. Outside agencies, including Police Youth Affairs Officers will be used where expert factual knowledge is demanded.

Conclusion

Drugs education forms a vital part of all students' entitlement within the CPSHE Framework curriculum. The students' are "critical consumers" of the present curriculum in this area, are positive about learning more about the real risks of illegal drugs and are keen to use this opportunity to develop their own attitudes towards drugs. Our developing programmes will allow the College to meet this desire and to promote healthy lifestyles among all our students.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Equality Policy. No one will unlawfully be disadvantaged on the grounds of age, race or ethnicity, disability, gender and marital status, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion or belief under the operation of this policy.