

THE GILLFORD CENTRE	
TITLE: DRUG EDUCATION POLICY	ISSUE 1 DATE: January 2009

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DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 All young people at the Gillford Centre (GC) need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs. The centre has a central role in helping them make such choices by providing education and guidance about the risks and effects of drugs.
- 1.2 The purpose of Drug Education is to promote young people's knowledge and awareness in relation to drugs that they may encounter. The centre will ensure that education about drugs takes place as part of the wider curriculum framework. We will also ensure that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.
- 1.3 The Drug Education Programme will enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects. It will challenge attitudes and help students to develop skills such as being assertive and being a positive example amongst their peers.
- 1.4 The centre is aware that some students are more vulnerable to drug misuse and that we can help to reduce the impact of risk factors and strengthen protective factors by promoting:
 - supportive and safe relationships
 - regular centre attendance
 - ability to cope with the social and academic demands of centre life
 - strong and supportive social networks
 - good social skills
 - good knowledge of the effects and risks associated with drugs
 - realistic self awareness and self esteem
 - good knowledge of general health and how to ensure good mental health
 - good knowledge of how to access help and information
 - counselling and other support mechanisms – Inspira, CAMHS.
 - working partnerships with parents/carers

2.0 Aims

- 2.1 The aims of our Drug Education Policy are to:
 - reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the Gillford Centre
 - enable staff to manage effectively drugs related incidents on centre premises
 - clarify the centre's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
 - make clear the legal responsibilities and requirements of GC

- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the centre. Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drugs education programme
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- ensure the drugs education programme meets statutory requirements

3.0 Definitions and Terminology

3.1 The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated and used throughout this document refer to:

- illegal drugs (those controlled by the misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- over-the-counter prescription medicines

4.0 The management of substance abuse

4.1 In respect of substance abuse teachers' and support workers responsibilities lie within two main areas:

- paramount duty of care for the education, safety and well-being of students entrusted to the centre;
- observance of, and compliance with, laws relating to controlled substances, drugs, alcohol etc.

4.2 Where substances open to abuse (e.g. solvents, glues) are legally held within the centre, such substances will be strictly controlled and stored, and the use of them supervised. (See Health and Safety Policy).

4.3 Where incidents of abuse do occur, or there is reasonable suspicion of such incidents, the centre will act promptly.

4.4 The parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible, by the Head teacher or contact teacher, if the centre has evidence of their child's involvement, or probable involvement with alcohol, drugs or solvent abuse.

4.5 Students will be made aware through the induction programme and contact teacher that the centre does not accept the misuse of substances, and of the sanctions likely to be imposed on offenders.

4.6 Sanctions

These can apply to instances, which occur in centre, between home and centre, on work experience and centre visits.

4.6.1 Tobacco

- students found in possession of tobacco products will have them confiscated, along with any matches/lighters. A detention will be set. Telephone or letter will inform Parents/carers of students caught smoking on site. Repeat offenders will be spoken to by the head teacher or contact teacher regarding the health consequences of smoking, and parents/carers may be invited in to centre to discuss the continued breach of

centre rules.

4.6.2 Alcohol

- students found drunk/drinking - The first duty of the centre is to have regard to the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. If there is disruption caused to the good order of the centre, parents will be contacted to collect the student. All cases of drunkenness will be reported to the parent/carer and the disciplinary action following from the incident will be confirmed to them.
- students found in possession of alcohol - The alcohol will be confiscated. All such incidents will be reported to the parent and the disciplinary action following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

For repeat offenders information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

4.6.3 Solvents

- students found abusing solvents - The first duty of the centre will be to have regard for the safety of the student by rendering or obtaining appropriate assistance/treatment. All solvents/apparatus will be confiscated and a sample of the solvent should go to the hospital (if the student is hospitalised). The parent/carer will be informed immediately and any disciplinary action following from the incident will be confirmed to them.

In cases where the centre has reasonable evidence for believing a student has involvement in solvent abuse outside centre the parents will be informed of the possible danger to their child.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

4.6.4 Controlled drugs (**NB this relates to abuse – not to those controlled drugs prescribed by a medical practitioner**)

- students suspected of possession of a (non-medically prescribed) controlled drug - Where there are strong grounds for suspicion the head teacher, usually accompanied by another adult, will ask to search the student. The Police will be involved where necessary.
- students found in possession of, or using controlled drugs in centre - The drugs will be immediately confiscated and handed over to a police officer as soon as possible and officially reported.

The parents/carer will be contacted as soon as possible.

If this is a first offence the student will be excluded from centre and the situation reviewed; repeat offenders may be permanently excluded from centre. This will be separate to any action taken by the police. The LA and the Chair of Governors will be informed. Copies of all relevant documentation will be forwarded to the appropriate parties.

Information regarding specialist follow-up counselling will be made available.

- students found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (pushing) - Police will be called immediately, parents/carers contacted as soon as possible and student(s) excluded in the interests of and under the duty of care towards non-involved students.

The likely outcome for the student(s), separate to any action taken by the police, will be permanent exclusion.

NB. The level of sanctions applied in the above cases will relate to the individual incident, be consistent with other breaches of discipline, and take account of the student's record in centre. All partners will wish to protect the good name of the centre.

4.7 Criteria for Police involvement

4.7.1 Informing the Police

- all incidents involving the misuse of controlled drugs will be reported to the Police;
- where any substance is misused by an individual, and a third party (student or member of the community) has in all likelihood supplied the substance illegally, such information will be passed to the Police.

4.7.2 Searches

- students who refuse to allow the head teacher to search their belongings where there are grounds for suspicion of substance misuse (controlled drugs, alcohol, solvents, tobacco), will be subject to disciplinary measures;
- additionally, where searches relate specifically to alcohol, solvents or controlled drugs, and students refuse to cooperate with searches by senior staff the Police will be asked to attend the centre to perform a search.

5.0 Drugs Education

5.1 In a combination of PSHE and subject-based lessons the centre will provide a coherent programme of drugs education, which will contribute to the preventative measures taken by the Government and other bodies.

5.2 Aims:

- deliver a comprehensive and coherent programme through subject based lessons.
- build on and develop an anti-drug culture within our student body;
- continually review the programme to ensure its content and approach is current and relevant;
- develop students' understanding of the wider impact of drug use/misuse beyond the user;
- promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- increase awareness of the short and long term risks, the effects of drugs and how they relate to achieving a healthy lifestyle;
- develop relevant skills across the curriculum including decision making and effective communication;
- empower students to take appropriate action in encounters with drugs, suppliers and users;
- increase students' ability to assess and manage risk;
- clarify the laws and rules relating to drugs and engage with classifications and their relevance;
- incorporate the programme into a whole centre approach addressed by representatives of all areas of the centre and its community.

5.3 Objectives

5.3.1 Increasing knowledge, changing attitudes and enhancing skills

- provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse;
- provide opportunities for students to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs and to help reduce centre problems associated with drug misuse.

5.3.2 Behaviour

- minimise the number of young people who engage in drug misuse;
- enable any students who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

5.3.3 Citizenship

- increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum;
- enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle;
- enhance later parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when students reach adulthood.

5.4 Delivery

5.4.1 Drugs education will be delivered across the curriculum in PSHE, PE, Citizenship and Science.

6.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

6.1 The head teacher, on behalf of the Management Committee, will review the policy on a biannual basis.