



Moat Community College

Drugs and Drugs Education Policy

Rationale

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices about their lives, by increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing decision making skills.
- To increase understanding about the dangers and consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To provide advice and support to students if needed.

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.'

- Illegal drugs For the purpose of this policy, an 'illegal drug' is a Class A, B or C drug as defined by Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Legal drugs include tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites.
- Over the counter and prescription medicines.

Procedures

Rules

1. The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs is not allowed on college premises.



2. Students are not allowed to use or bring onto the premises tobacco, alcohol or other legal drugs (other than over the counter and prescription medicines).
3. Over the counter and prescription medicines may at times be used but only with a note from home and agreement with the Principal in accordance with the college procedures on medicines.

What constitutes a “drug related incident”?

A drug-related incident is one where:

- Substance misuse takes place on school premises at any time, or during an out-of-school activity organised by the school (e.g. a school trip, one-day or residential).
- There is reasonable suspicion that a student’s behaviour is being altered by the use or misuse of a substance.
- Where students are discovered to be taking and/or supplying substances whilst on school premises.
- Where students and teachers feel threatened by pupils because of altered personality states and irrational behaviour. Where lessons cannot take place because of the behaviour of a pupil who is under the influence of substances.

The college recognises that a student’s behaviour may be altered by drugs which are prescribed. In these cases, the college needs to have some knowledge as to the likely effects of the drug.

The college’s drugs education programme

- The college will provide a drugs education programme for all students. This will run in Key Stages 3 and 4 and will form part of every student’s entitlement.
- The college will provide a set of guidelines/rules to all college students, parents, staff and other users that clearly state the college position on the use of drugs both on and off the college premises and how any incident may be dealt with.
- The college will actively co-operate with other agencies such as the police, LEA, Social Services, health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drug education.



Guidance for Staff

Recognising the signs

These signs are not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse.

In individuals:

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to participate in college activities.
- Decline in performance in work.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money.
- Having more money than needed for a normal college day.
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause.
- No interest in physical appearance.
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose.
- Lack of appetite.
- Heavy use of scents etc. to disguise the smell of drugs.

In groups:

- Regular absence on certain days.
- Keeping at a distance from other pupils, away from supervision points.
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking.
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises.
- Stealing, which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person.
- The use of drug-taking slang.
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances.
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

If you discover, or suspect the use of, illegal substances



If any member of staff suspects that a pupil may be under the influence of drugs or alcohol misuse, they should report their suspicions to a senior colleague and record their suspicions in the drug incident log in the main office.

Where staff discover substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should follow these guidelines.

- a) Remove the substance and record the time, place and circumstances when the substance came into their possession.
- b) Take the substances as soon as possible to the main office or to a senior member of staff.
- c) The substance(s) will then be placed in a sealed container and the package needs to be signed and dated. An official report should be completed in the drug incident log detailing the time, date and circumstances of the findings.
- d) The Principal can arrange for the police to remove the substance from the premises or may dispose of it in an appropriate way.
- e) In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with substance use, especially needles and syringes, the Principal must ensure that the materials are placed in a secure and rigid container to await collection by the appropriate service.

The college's response to drug related incidents

In relation to an individual student, the college will always consider such things as: the previous behaviour of a student who is involved; the nature and type of substance used; whether substances were being used or supplied; whether misuse occurred on school premises.



- Any student proven to be supplying drugs will be excluded. The police will also be informed.
- Possession of drugs will also lead to exclusion. The police will also be informed.
- Any student suspected of having taken drugs will be removed from lessons and collected by parents/guardians or their representatives.
- After informing parents of the college's suspicions, guidance will be offered as to what to do (e.g. visit to their own GP, refer for counselling etc).
- Where drugs may wholly or partly account for unacceptable behaviour, the word "unacceptable" is used in the same sense as it is in the college's behaviour policy. When deciding a course of action, therefore, the drugs and behaviour policies need to be used in combination.

Review Date:

October 2017

Responsibility for Review:

Vice Principal KS3