



The
COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL
Leftwich

Achieving Excellence

Document Control Sheet

Document Type	Policy
Document Name	Drugs Education
Originator	Laura Kane
Approved by	Inclusion and Culture
Review interval	Biennial
Date of last review	24th October 2023
Date of next review	Autumn Term 2025
This document is part of the group which include	Safeguarding, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Online Safety, Suspensions, Policy Statement Additional & Special Education Needs, Use of Images, Student Illness, Accident & First Aid, Use of Force, Recruitment, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions, Single Equality Scheme Searching Screening & Confiscation, Transgender and Health & Safety Policies. Also part of the group which include the Relationship & Sex Education Policy
Equality Act 2010 fully considered	Yes
EIA Form Completed	Yes

The County High School Leftwich
Granville Road, Northwich, Cheshire, CW9 8EZ
Telephone: 01606 333300

Drugs Education

1. The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
2. The school condones neither the misuse of drugs including alcohol nor the illegal supply of these substances.
3. The school acknowledges the need to be aware of and sensitive to the fact that some children may be living with drug-using parents/carers.
4. The school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education of every student, which underpins our approach to the Education for Life curriculum (EFL).
5. Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents/carers, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy.
6. Whilst we acknowledge that the number of young people nationally who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that a larger number of young people choose not to use or misuse substances. We support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse to:
 - 6.1. enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills;
 - 6.2. provide accurate information about substances;
 - 6.3. increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
 - 6.4. widen understanding about related health and social issues;
 - 6.5. seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
 - 6.6. enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;
 - 6.7. provide support and up to date information to parents/carers.
7. These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, and through opportunities for extracurricular activities.
8. The drug education curriculum will be the responsibility of the Learning Leader of the Education for Life faculty and it will be taught by tutors as part of the EFL curriculum based on the DFE guidance for Health Education.
9. The curriculum will be assessed and monitored through the ongoing evaluations of the Learning Leader.
10. Appropriate CPD will be provided.

11. The resources used will be subject to the checklist contained in 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools'.

12. Use of Visitors/Outside Speakers

12.1. In dealing with aspects of substance use and misuse it is very important to be aware of both the 'form' and the 'content' of any information being considered by young people. Avoiding inconsistent messages is clearly of concern here not only in relation to inputs from teaching staff and youth workers, but also in considering the possible contribution from occasional visitors and outside speakers. Adults (other than teachers, lecturers and youth workers) can be a useful source of ideas and information for those working with young people.

12.2. There may, however, be occasions when the use of an outside speaker may be deemed appropriate as part of a planned programme of work. The School will follow the guidance on the use of outside visitors.

12.2.1. students are involved in preparatory and follow up work;

12.2.2. the visitor is clear about the school's aims, drug education programme and how their contribution fits;

12.2.3. the visitor is clear about the school's policies regarding confidentiality, disclosure and child protection;

12.2.4. the visitor is a competent educator/facilitator and is aware of their role and responsibilities;

12.2.5. the content of the lesson has been negotiated and agreed and is grounded in a student-centered approach.

13. Pastoral Care and Support for Students at Risk

13.1. Appropriate support and counselling should be made available to young people who are drug users/misusers.

13.2. Staff should not guarantee confidentiality to a young person disclosing drug use.

14. Disclosure to Parents and Other Agencies

14.1. The school will always inform parent/carers, unless there are concerns that a young person may come to harm as a result of the disclosure.

14.2. The school will inform the police whenever an incident involving illegal substances takes place at the School. All incidents of dealing drugs within the school must be reported.

15. Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

15.1. The law permits staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a student from harm and from committing the offence of possession.

15.2. Staff must:

- 15.2.1. comply with DfE guidance, 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation, January 2018';
- 15.2.2. inform the Headteacher, or Deputy Headteacher immediately;
- 15.2.3. the substance found must be recorded and its disposal witnessed by another member of staff;
- 15.2.4. know and understand the school's procedures for managing drug incidents involving parents on the premises;
- 15.2.5. except where there are concerns for the safety of the young person, the Headteacher or other Senior Leader will inform the parents/carers so that they can work together to support the young person involved.

15.3. Issues relating to concerns staff may have about drug-using parents/carers should be notified to the SLT who will decide on the appropriate action.

16. Discipline

- 16.1. DfE guidance and advice from NAHT advises us that "... schools will want to develop a repertoire of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, reflecting the different kinds of drug related offences, such as possession of an illegal drug, individual use and selling or sharing drugs with other students."
- 16.2. It states that permanent exclusion should be used only "as a last resort when all other reasonable steps have been taken..." Accordingly, this School will:
 - 16.2.1. consider each incident individually;
 - 16.2.2. consider carefully the implications of any action, particularly the academic and social needs of the young person;
 - 16.2.3. use a differentiated set of responses.