



## DRUGS EDUCATION AND THE MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS POLICY

### 1. Background

Hunters Hill is a residential special School for up to 120 residential and day pupils aged 11-16 years, who have moderate learning difficulties. Pupils may also have various other specific needs or combination of needs, including social, emotional, behavioural and health difficulties which are best provided for in a residential setting. Pupils are from a variety of social and ethnic backgrounds.

### 2. Overall Aim of Hunters Hill Technology College

To provide a stable, safe and caring community in which to develop to the full the potential of all pupils and staff. Such a community should prepare pupils to cope confidently in the world, and to be able to take their place in, and actively contribute to, society.

### 3. Introduction

- 3.1 Drug education is a responsibility we share with parents/carers, families and the wider community.
- 3.2 We consider drug education to be very important but do not include it as a separate subject within the curriculum. Much of it is delivered through PSHE & Citizenship, Science, English, PE and many other subjects.

### 4. Definition

A drug is defined as a substance that can change the way the human body works, either physiologically (body functions) or psychologically (changes in behaviour).

This policy will encompass all drugs:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine
- Over the counter medicines e.g. paracetamol, cough medicine
- Volatile substances e.g. aerosols, butane, petrol
- Illegal drugs e.g. cannabis, ecstasy, heroin



## 5. Aims

- To enable pupils to make healthy informed choices.
- To support the School's endeavour to maintain the safeguarding and well-being of all pupils.
- To bring about confident, effective management of all drugs on School premises.
- To support all members of the School community by providing clear guidance.
- To give appropriate attention to all drugs: legal drugs, medicines, solvents and other socially disapproved of drugs and illegal drugs.
- To bring clarity and consistency to the way all staff approach the subject of drugs.
- To set down the basis for a planned drug education programme in accordance with LEA and national guidance.

## 6. Drug Education

- 6.1 We use drug education to bring about an understanding of the drugs with which our pupils may expect to come into contact. Through drug education we aim to build their self-esteem, their skills and their belief in the significance of their own role in preserving their health and welfare. In addition to building our pupils' competence, we also aim to build their confidence in using their knowledge and skills to make careful decisions.
- 6.2 At Hunters Hill Technology College, drug education is a planned and integral element of the PSHE curriculum and is an entitlement of every pupil. Staff delivering the programme are offered training and support in awareness of drugs and in the techniques of drug education. Teaching resources are chosen for their appropriate content and quality. We recognise that all pupils need accurate, up to date, credible drug information.

## 7. Hunters Hill Technology College's Position On Drugs

This policy is intended to ensure all pupils are supported consistently whether on or around School premises and whenever the School is responsible for their welfare. At Hunters Hill we recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but we also regard every drug as representing potential for harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs they may come into contact with, their social and legal status and their uses and effects. These choices will include decisions about the use of medicines as well as non-medicinal drugs. It is our aim to help all our pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. The main emphasis of our work in relation to drugs is the safeguarding of our pupils.



## **8. The Drug Education Programme**

- 8.1 The content of drug education at Hunters Hill will include the requirements of the National Curriculum Science Order. The following guidelines are from the National Curriculum PSHE guidance:-
- At Key Stage 3 pupils should be taught about the potential risks of alcohol and smoking, and know the basic facts and laws about illegal substances and the dangers of misusing prescribed drugs.
  - At Key Stage 4 pupils should be taught to assess the risks of drug misuse and drinking alcohol.
  - Recognise alternatives and long-term and short-term consequences when making decisions.
  - Counter and challenge unwanted pressure.
- 8.2 Further content will be based on guidance in drug education and management of drug related incidents BCC 1999. Content is always amended or adapted in the light of individual class needs.
- 8.3 Our drug education programme pays attention to the development of skills and the exploration of attitudes and values as well as ensuring that drug information provided is accurate and relevant.
- 8.4 Our pupils are helped to understand clearly that particular decisions about behaviour may lead inevitably to certain consequences. A range of situations and pupils' own experiences are used to illustrate this, this links with our 24 hour curriculum.
- 8.5 We use a variety of teaching methods which include ICT, discussion, group work, role play, written activities, games etc.
- 8.6 We are careful to monitor and record education work done in each class and the progress the pupils demonstrate in terms of their knowledge, skills and changing attitudes. This helps us review progress and evaluate the effectiveness of our work.
- 8.7 The local police force may be enlisted to enhance the teaching of safety surrounding the issue of using illegal substances. This will be on a rolling basis to all key stages of the School and at an age appropriate level.



## **9. Drugs on School Premises**

- 9.1 Action will be taken in response to issues raised by situations involving drugs observed, reported or suspected beyond the boundaries of the School premises.
- 9.2 Alcohol and tobacco are only allowed on to School premises in the possession of adults.
- 9.3 Alcohol is only permitted to be drunk by staff at School on social occasions, when no pupils are on the premises.
- 9.4 Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of, or use, alcohol, tobacco, matches, lighters, sniffable products or any illegal drugs at any time. Any found will be confiscated.
- 9.5 The use of the police and sniffer dogs may be considered if it is thought that drugs are being brought into School.

## **10. Possession of Drugs**

- 10.1 If any pupil is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated and put in a safe in the Business Manager's Office. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, it will be given to the police in the presence of a witness and a careful record kept. The Head Teacher must be informed and will take the lead in deciding how to respond further. Each situation will be judged individually. Parents/carers will normally be informed and other outside professionals such as the LEA, police, GP. The Health Education Unit drugs team will be informed or consulted as appropriate. A careful investigation will be undertaken, with the Head Teacher taking the lead, to try and determine the source of any drug and the involvement of any other pupils. Careful records will always be kept. Record forms are kept in the Care Office and completed forms are kept locked in the Care Office. The records will be kept up to date.
- 10.2 The range of sanctions used for rule-breaking will be similar to those for other transgressions and will depend on the nature and gravity of the offence. Exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in line with DFCS guidance on exclusions. A case conference will be called if it is judged necessary.
- 10.3 Rumours or suspicions will be fully and promptly investigated. The Head Teacher will take the lead.



- 10.4 If a pupil is thought to be under the influence of illegal substances, he/she will be tested using an oral swab test kit. This is a non-invasive test and will indicate the presence in the body of 6 different illegal substances. It will not test positive for prescribed medications.
- 10.5 If a pupil tests positive for illegal substances, parents/carers will be informed and arrangements will be made for them to go home to recover. If a pupil refuses to take the oral test and staff consider that he/she is under the influence of an illegal substance then parents/carers will be informed and arrangements will be made for them to go home.
- 10.6 Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil. In particular, if a pupil chooses to disclose in confidence that they are using a drug without medical or teacher authorisation, this information will be shared with another member of staff. However, action will be taken to ensure the pupil comes to no harm if this is considered a risk. Confiscation of the drug (if at School) and involvement of parents/carers are routine. Other options include:
- Involvement of police
  - Referral to other agency, for example HIAH
- as appropriate.
- 10.7 Referral agencies may include Lifeline, Youth Offending Team and the Police.
- 10.8 The effectiveness of any response to an unplanned drug incident in School will be assessed and procedures reviewed by the Head Teacher and colleagues as soon as possible. Procedures will be amended as a result if necessary.

## **11. Policy Review**

This Policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.