

# JOHN SPENDLUFFE TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE



## Drug Education Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	Full Governing Body	<b>Date:</b> October 2022
---------------------	---------------------	---------------------------

<b>Last reviewed on:</b>	September 2022
--------------------------	----------------

<b>Next review due by:</b>	September 2023
----------------------------	----------------

## **AIMS**

At JSTC, we aim to provide pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum which will include the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to lead confident, healthy and independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible citizens.

The role of Drug Education is to provide all pupils with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding about drugs – the benefits of drugs and the risks of drug misuse – and to ensure that they are equipped with the information and skills they need to make healthy, informed choices.

We recognise the importance of providing a drugs education programme appropriate to each child's age and their physical, social and intellectual maturity. All pupils will have equal access to the drugs education programme. This document outlines the legal and educational responsibilities of all staff at the school.

## **DEFINITION**

For the purpose of this policy 'drugs' and 'substances' refer to all drugs. They are defined as:

- all legal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, solvents/volatile substances (those giving off gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- all medicines whether over-the-counter or prescription
- illegal drugs whose use may have harmful effects on the body and new psychoactive substances ('legal highs') those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001
- all substances dangerous to health, e.g. cleaning fluids

We accept that drugs and substances usually alter our body chemistry, feelings and perceptions.

## **OBJECTIVES**

In general our PSHE aims to promote spiritual, moral, cultural, economical, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society; in so doing to build children's self confidence, self-esteem and self awareness. It seeks to encourage the development of good habits and how to make choices to promote a healthy, safe lifestyle. We teach the children how to make simple choices to improve health and well-being preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

### **We aim to:**

- Enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through helping them to increase their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To help young people to develop further a sense of self-worth and self esteem.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To help young people to distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm.
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs.
- To counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medicinal drugs).
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues.
- To enable pupils to identify where help and support can be found, and signpost to other options.
- Encourage children to have the courage to speak out about the suspicion of others misusing drugs.

### **We intend to achieve our aims through:**

- A co-ordinated, integrated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents.
- An appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils' needs.
- Clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other inputs.
- Assemblies, displays, debates, visiting speakers and theatre groups.
- Reinforcement of key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations.
- Content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special educational needs and / or English as an additional language.
- Involvement of the whole community, including staff, governors, parents/carers, pupils and visitors, in order to promote a united and cohesive approach to substance education and misuse.
- Working in an integrated way with other local professionals.
- Training and support for staff in the planning and implementation of drug education.
- Regular revision of policy and practice

### **Pupils should be able to:**

- Understand their own personality, needs, abilities and interests.
- Understand the process of reasoning required to make informed choices.
- Explore their own attitudes towards drugs and drug issues.
- Develop coping strategies to deal with peer pressure.
- Develop a competence in challenging attitudes and patterns of behaviour associated with drug misuse.
- Develop self-discipline.
- Understand what is meant by 'a drug' and the definition of 'addiction'.
- Understand how some drugs affect the body.
- Be aware of the benefits of healthy lifestyles.
- Recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action.
- Be aware of the current drug culture and the effect of advertising campaigns.
- Be aware of the issue of County Lines and identifying signs.

## **ORGANISATION**

As stated, drugs education will be delivered through the PSHE and Science curriculum. Our school actively co-operates with Social Services, Early Help Workers, the Mental Health Support Team and other agencies and is committed to developing our contacts with the wider community as is necessary for the best care of each child.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Our school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing if members of the school misuse drugs and/or alcohol, or if these substances are illegally supplied.

## **STAFF**

All staff should consider themselves role models whose behaviour the children are likely to notice and often follow. Staff also have a responsibility to know how they should respond to any possible drug related incidents. They have the responsibility to contribute to the taught curriculum for drug education. They listen to the pupils and determine their specific needs. These needs are in specific drug education input as well as through a wider programme of personal and social skill development.

Staff have a duty of care to pass on information to the Headteacher and Safeguarding Team if they have knowledge or suspicion of illicit drug used by pupils or by members of a pupil's family.

In line with the Government's Drug strategy 2010 the staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is banned on the School site and grounds. In addition no smoking should take place in any vehicle owned, or hired, by the School, since such vehicles fall within the definition of enclosed workplaces. This is the case whether or not pupils are present. Although electronic cigarettes do not contain tobacco or produce smoke, and their use in enclosed workplaces and public places is not banned by law in the UK, staff are not permitted to use them on the School site, grounds or vehicles owned or hired by the School. Instances of pupils or members of staff found abusing drugs must be reported to the Head. The School Safeguarding procedures will then be adhered to.

## **DRUGS IN SCHOOL**

We have a zero-tolerance stance regarding the possession, supply and/or use of illegal substances at the Academy. No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used, on the Academy premises. Should a student be found in possession of illegal drugs, then a permanent exclusion is most likely - in line with the Academy's Behaviour Policy.

Students are not allowed any drugs on their person, including any legal medications. All medications taken immediately to student reception and stored safely in the main office.

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use
- Being in possession of what the school believes to be an illegal substance.

### **Process**

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Pastoral Care is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents. Incidents will be dealt with after making an initial assessment of the situation and be reported to Senior Management. Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.

Evidence of drug use or possession will result in exclusion, most likely permanent, as there is a zero-tolerance approach.

## **Medical Emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful or toxic substance, or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought and first aid given - if required. The priority will be the safety of the student.

## **Individuals in Possession of Drugs**

If any student or adult on the school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated in line with DfE guidance. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and hand over the drug immediately. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of, it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary.

Parents/carers of students will be informed and other professionals from external agencies may be informed or consulted, as appropriate. Appropriate investigations will be carried out and sanctions applied in line with the School's Behaviour Policy.

## **Support for Students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs - whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.

## **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the student file.

## **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this will be referred to the Safeguarding Team. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of information to others and, if possible, enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.