



Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Last Review Date January 2024
Next Review Date: January 2025

1. Introduction

TBAC acknowledges the importance of our role in promoting the welfare of young people. Through the general ethos of the centre, substance and alcohol abuse will be discouraged and learners will be encouraged to adopt increasingly healthy lifestyles. TBAC recognises the responsibility it has to help students become more confident and responsible young people; this is achieved by teaching students about the dangers to health posed by drug-taking and equipping them with the social skills that enable them to make informed moral and social decisions in relation to drugs. The centre is committed to the health and safety of all members of our centre community and will take action to safeguard and promote their personal development and well-being.

2. Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things and the way in which the body works.

3. Definition of drug misuse

Drug misuse refers to the use of illegal drugs and the misuse, whether deliberate or unintentional, of prescribed drugs and substances such as alcohol, solvents, poppers and psychoactive substances (also known as 'legal highs'). Drug misuse can harm the misuser both physically and mentally and through the misuser's actions, other people and the environment.

4. Responsibilities

The Centre Manager has responsibility for supporting other members of staff in the implementation of this policy. The PSHE coordinator, members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and tutors will provide a lead in the dissemination of information relating to drug education. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support the centre's drug education programme. The policy applies at all times when staff are acting in loco parentis, this includes centre trips and other educational visits.

All Staff

All staff, both teaching and support staff, should be aware of the policy and how it relates to them should they be called upon to deal with a drug-related incident. Information regarding suspected drug or alcohol misuse should be passed to the Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead, currently Chris Oliver or the Deputy Designated Safeguarding team currently: Karen Cresswell; Lucy Wellings, Jo Banton and Errol Brown, or to the relevant member of SLT.

The policy applies to all students, including students on roll as guests/temporary.

5. Aim

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Provide guidance to students, staff and parents whilst setting out clear avenues of support and sanctions.
- Promote awareness and prevent alcohol and drug addiction.

- Identify and provide help and support to those with an alcohol or drug related problem.
- Safeguard students from the hazards of alcohol and drug abuse.
- Provide appropriate support and advice on how best to deal with students who may suffer from alcohol and/or drug related problems.

6. Provision of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

Drug prevention is a whole centre issue and there are opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle throughout the curriculum. Each tutor/teacher answers questions about drugs sensitively and appropriately, as they occur.

Our aim is:

- To enable all learners to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing skills.
- To equip students with the social skills and self-confidence to resist any pressure they may experience to take drugs.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To show that taking illegal drugs is a moral issue, and that choices about drugs are moral choices.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support both inside and outside the centre.
- To use outside agencies and visitors in ways which complement and enhance the programme of drug education.

7. Incidents of drugs misuse: Student support and Sanctions

In normal circumstances parents and guardians will be contacted when there is a suspicion of a drug-related incident. If the Centre Manager assesses that the situation is a safeguarding issue, then Social Services will be contacted in the first instance. If a learner is found in possession of drugs, the priority will be the welfare and safeguarding of learners at all times. A range of sanctions may be used including a fixed term or permanent exclusion. However, if learners are involved in selling or supplying illegal substances to others a permanent exclusion may result following a detailed investigation.

TBAC works in conjunction external agencies, and information regarding any illegal activities will be passed to the team. In most cases and following advice from the police parents and guardians will be informed of this beforehand.

Misuse of drugs and alcohol policy update:

If we suspect that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, we will contact their parents and ask them to collect their child in the first instance. If they are unable to do so,

we will ensure that the student is supervised at all times in a location away from other students in a designated room (upstairs). We will also raise this as a concern with the commissioner/school.

On their return to the centre, they will meet with their mentor and with a DSL to discuss the incident and raise our concerns. We will then do some work with them around this in their mentoring sessions which will be ongoing.

Our PHSE curriculum also addresses this topic

8. Smoking Policy

Smoking in the workplace is a health and safety issue and under no circumstances is smoking permitted on any part of centre premises. This reflects the NCC 2006 Smoking Policy and Smoke-Free Legislation (2007).

All members of the centre community, including parents/carers are requested not to smoke in the vicinity of the centre, outside of the centre boundaries, in view of pupils. Staff should take a responsible attitude in promoting smoke-free lifestyles to pupils. On no occasion should staff smoke in the company of pupils, including off-site visits and residential trips. 'Smoking' in the context of this policy also refers to e-cigarettes and other legal alternatives.

Information is available through signposting from the Centre's office for anybody wishing to stop smoking.

9. Alcohol Policy

No alcohol is kept on site. The consumption of alcohol at The Centre by any member of the centre community is strictly prohibited.

All student and parent/carers are given a student agreement form which both student and parent/carers sign to say that they understand and accept the rules and boundaries of the Centre. The student and parent/carers are told that anyone caught bringing in alcohol, drugs or a weapon on site or into the centre that the police will be called.