



Everyone matters, every day counts

# DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Policy created:

Policy first adopted:

Signed chair of Governors:

Re-adopted & signed:



## **Drug Education Policy**

### **1.1 INTRODUCTION**

As set down within its statement of principles, Oak Grove College:

- is an environment dedicated to meeting the care, support and educational needs of students with learning difficulties,
- has a moral purpose to foster the personal capacity of students to be independent and contributing members of society.

1.2 All young people need to be educated as to how to live a healthy lifestyle. Legislation states that a compulsory programme of drug education must be provided for all pupils of secondary age, whatever type of school they attend. Drug education will be delivered through the Personal Development curriculum. Effective implementation of this policy, together with other 'keep safe' programmes, will ensure that the school environment is safe for students and staff.

### **2 DEFINITION**

Drugs are those that are legal: eg alcohol, tobacco, solvents, over the counter/ prescribed drugs and illegal: eg cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD.

### **3.1 AIMS OF DRUG EDUCATION**

As part of the Personal Development curriculum, Drug Education is designed to help students develop the skills and understanding they need in order to be able to exercise protective behaviours and make appropriate life choices.

3.2 The Drug Education programme aims to:

- develop students' self-esteem and self belief so that they have the confidence/necessary tools to resist peer pressure,

- enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising skills,
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles,
- provide accurate information about substances,
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse,
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use,
- widen understanding about related health and social issues eg: sex and relationships, crime, HIV and AIDS,
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

3.3 Where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the school drug policy. Oak Grove College actively co-operates with other agencies such as learning support officers, social services, the local authority and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

#### 4 GUIDELINES

- Drug Education should be tailored not only to the age, but also to the level of understanding of the students.
- Students must be protected from teaching and materials which are inappropriate.
- It is important to create an atmosphere in which students feel comfortable and able to contribute, which may be accomplished by establishing a set of ground rules.
- Distancing techniques can be used to avoid embarrassment and protect students' and teachers' privacy. This involves depersonalising discussions.
- Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. Students should be made aware of circumstances where information given cannot be treated as confidential. This would be where a member of staff believes that a disclosure contravenes the law or the student is at moral or physical risk.
- The school nurses can support the implementation of the drugs education policy.

#### 5.1 IMPLEMENTATION

Oak Grove College believes that the use of drugs in school is inappropriate. Drugs are not permitted to be used, bought or sold on school premises. Individual exceptions are made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate and parents should inform the school of these needs.

5.2 In instances involving possession or substance misuse, the drugs incident protocol will be followed.

## 6 RESPONSIBILITIES

The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the governing body, parents, local authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Personal Development co-ordinator is responsible for developing the long term aims and objectives related to drug education within the Personal Development curriculum, monitoring and evaluating practice and keeping the school up to date with current initiatives and developments. Responsibility for delivery of the Drug Education programme rests with the Pastoral Leader: Marvel and tutors in each family group.

## 7 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

The governing body will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the college.