



SPRINGWELL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Drug Policy

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Introduction

The policy is one of a series in the college's integrated safeguarding portfolio. Our core safeguarding principles are:

- The college's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- Representatives of the whole college community of students, parents/carers, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review.
- Policies will be reviewed annually, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the college. There are four main elements to our policy:

- Springwell Community College condones neither the misuse of drugs by members of the college nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- Springwell Community College is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.
- Springwell Community College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral and curriculum role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the college, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.
- Springwell Community College recognises that we live in a society in which drugs (both legal and illegal) are widely used. We believe that we have an obligation to inform and empower our students to enable them to make decisions that will result in them enjoying a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

The Policy applies to the drug education within Springwell Community College and the use/misuse of drugs on the college site both within and outside college hours. It applies to all Springwell Community College students whether they be educated at Springwell or off-site in other educational provision, likewise to students who are not on Springwell Community College's roll but access their education, or part of it, at Springwell.

Location and Dissemination

All members of college staff will receive an electronic copy of this policy annually. A reference copy is available in the StaffShare - College Policies folder on the college network.

Parts of this policy may be replicated or referred to in other college policy publications.

Definitions and Terminology

Where this policy refers to the term 'drug', this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, novel psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

External agencies include, but are not limited to, the Police, Multi-Agency Teams, Social Care and specific drug advice support services.

Development Process

This policy has been developed in collaboration with students (Students Matter group), parents/carers (Parent Forum) and the Senior Leadership Team. It has been guided by the Department for Education and Chief Police Officers Association document 'Drug Advice for Schools'. The Governing Body have ratified the policy.

The college's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students

Illegal or unauthorised drugs are not acceptable on the college premises.

Authorised drugs (medically necessary drugs) are accepted on the college premises but these must be handed in to Students Services, along with a parental permission form detailing dosage (see Control of Medication Policy).

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the college's community and meeting the pastoral needs of students. Sources of advice and local services are listed in this policy (Appendix 1).

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

The Headteacher will take overall responsibility for:

- The policy and its implementation
- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies
- Ensuring a senior member of staff is given the responsibility of co-ordinating the drug policy and its implementation and procedures
- The provision of adequate training and support for all staff
- Give the authority to appropriate staff in order to search students; members of the Senior Leadership Team, Student Progress Leaders and On Call.

The Drug Co-ordinator will:

- Ensure the policy is up-to-date and reviewed
- Liaise with the Governing Body, parents/carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies
- Have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of the policy and its procedures.

The PSHE Co-ordinator will:

- Be responsible for the co-ordination of the drug education programme
- Ensure that the college and Governors are aware of up-to-date educational good practice and necessary training needs.

Principles

Springwell Community College believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

We believe that the education of our students is a partnership between the home, college and, where necessary, external agencies. Drug misuse is an issue for parents/carers, family members and the local

community as well as for the college. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising there are far larger numbers of them who choose not to use such substances. We will strive to affirm and support their decision.

The needs of students

At Springwell Community College we believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse;

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, eg sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curriculum activities. We teach drug education mainly through PSHE, science and English areas, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The college actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Care, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The school nurse operates a 'drop-in' centre once a week at lunchtime for students who wish to discuss health issues in confidence. The MAT provide Youth Worker support several lunchtimes per week in order to support young people.

Early Intervention

The college has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish those who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs. This will be done through Welfare Concern Forms (available to all college staff), SPL meetings, the 'At Risk' register and monthly BEST meetings.

Students whose parents/carers or family members misuse of drugs

The college will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the young person is experiencing difficult home circumstances. We endeavour to be pro-active in the early identification of young people's needs and in safeguarding the students in our care. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a student chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the college will assess the student's welfare and support needs – this will include a referral to the Learning Support Team. The involvement of other sources of support such as Children's

Services, MAT, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, the family.

Tobacco – Smoke Free College

Springwell Community College is subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

- The college is a smoke-free site.
- The college provides information and support for smokers to quit e.g promoting access to smoking cessation classes and access to the School Nurse.
- All stake holders are made aware of the smoke-free site policy.
- Disciplinary actions will be used against those not conforming to the smoke free legislation.

In the case of students in possession of tobacco, or smoking materials; these will be confiscated and disposed of.

Nicotine Containing Products (NCPs)

NCPs are perceived to be less harmful than tobacco however they remain unregulated. As such there are concerns about their use by students. The use of NCPs or e-cigarettes on college premises is prohibited, in line with tobacco products, for the following reasons:

- i) Nicotine is very addictive and, through e-cigarettes has the potential to be a gateway into tobacco smoking.
- ii) There is evidence to suggest that adolescent exposure to nicotine may have long term consequences for brain development.
- iii) The availability and promotion of e-cigarettes is reversing the progress made by smoke free legislation to de-normalise smoking.
- iv) There is insufficient evidence to determine whether the vapour produced by e-cigarettes causes damage to users' health in the long term. The same applies to the impact of second-hand vapour exhaled by the user
- v) The College is unable to judge which e-cigarettes are NCPs.

Any NCPs or e-cigarettes found in a student's possession will be confiscated and will only be returned to the parent/carer of the student whom the item was confiscated from.

Management of drug incidents

We acknowledge that there will still be some young people of school age who will choose to experiment with illegal drugs and legal highs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. With this in mind it is necessary for us to have clear procedures for dealing with drug related incidents on college premises and for working with other services concerned with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.

The college will consider each substance incident individually and we recognise that a variety of responses incorporating both sanctions and counselling, will be necessary to deal with incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take, seeking to balance the interests of the student involved, the other members of the college and the local community.

Permanent exclusion when considering instances of drug use will be used as a last resort as we recognise that this may only transfer the problem.

When considering possession and/or supply of drugs the 'permanent removal' of the student(s) from the college will be used as a sanction. This may be in the form of a Deferred Exclusion Transfer (DET) or through permanent exclusion.

Each incident will be dealt with on a case by case basis with all circumstances fully explored.

The college is aware of its legal obligations with regard to these issues. The college will continue to work closely with the college's Police Liaison Officer on all issues relating to drug incidents with our students.

Within the Pastoral System of the college we will continue to nurture an ethos that enables students to feel confident enough to discuss problems or concerns with staff.

The Headteacher and Drug Co-ordinator will take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the college's approach to drug incidents.

Lines of action when managing drug incidents will be as follows:

1. Staff who become aware of students in possession, or possibly in possession of drugs on college premises must notify the Drug Co-ordinator before attempting to search or investigate. This is essential in order to ensure correct procedures are followed and that consistency is applied. In the absence of the Drug Co-ordinator the Headteacher must be liaised with.
2. The Drug Co-ordinator will inform the Headteacher **before investigating** the matter, outlining the manner in which the investigation will take place.
3. No member of staff will attempt to search a student suspected to be in possession of drugs without the presence of the Headteacher or the Drug Co-ordinator.
4. Two adults will be present throughout the search of a student.
5. A sample of the drug found should be placed in a sealed plastic bag with the date and time written on – with a witness present.
6. The sample should be stored in a secure location with limited access – namely the college safe.
7. If illegal drugs are found the police should be notified without delay. The law states that the student does not have to be named at this point but it is advisable to do so.
8. Full details, including the police incident number, should be recorded.
9. If the allegations are substantiated or are in need of further investigation the parent/carer will be contacted, unless it is not in the best interest of the student.
10. Any safeguarding concerns should be identified immediately.

Appropriate courses of action may include:

- The calling of a case conference involving the student, parent/carer, Drug Co-ordinator and the Headteacher.
- Thorough investigation of events and personal circumstances.
- Counselling and support for the student from an appropriate agency.
- Completion of a Single Assessment.
- Referral to the MAT.

- Fixed term exclusion from the college.
- A Governors Pre-Exclusion Meeting.
- A Deferred Exclusion Transfer (DET).
- A Governors Permanent Exclusion Meeting.
- Any combination of the above.

11. Students who are found to be selling or supplying drugs on the college site will be dealt with by the appropriate sub-committee of the Governing Body.
12. If a student collapses or is in danger of doing so, normal first aid procedures should be followed.
13. Any approaches from the media will be dealt with by the Headteacher in consultation with the Drug Co-ordinator.

Police Involvement

Each case will be discussed on an individual basis and consultation with or involvement by the police will be as a direct result of this discussion.

Section 91, Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that a member of staff should confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Normally individual parents/carers will be informed in the case of alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances have been found however there is no legal requirement for this to happen and as such decisions will be made in consultation with the police.

In the case of legal drugs (such as tobacco and alcohol) police involvement is not necessary, however trading standards/police should be informed in regard to the inappropriate sale/supply of tobacco and alcohol to students in the local area.

Appendix 1

Local Organisation / Service	More information
<p>Youngaddaction Derby Suite D & G Bateman Court Bateman Street Derby Derbyshire DE23 8JQ Telephone number: 01332 254505 Email address: YoungPersonsServiceDerby@addaction.org.uk</p>	<p>Provides drug and alcohol advice and information to young people under 18 years old.</p>
<p>Addaction Derbyshire 39 Holywell Street Chesterfield Derbyshire S41 7SH Telephone number: 01246 208946</p>	<p>Our aim is to help transform the lives of people affected by drug and alcohol problems. Not only do we help the individual recover from their dependency, but we also offer support to those closest to them. Working with families and loved ones forms a major part of Addaction's treatment ethos.</p>
<p>Alcoholics Anonymous (Derbyshire) Aa Derbyshire Intergroup Po Box 6583 Derby DE1 9LD Telephone number: 0115 941 7100 (8.00am to midnight) Email address: info@derbyshireaa.co.uk</p>	<p>Deals with all problems relating to alcoholism and offers advice to people who have a desire to stop drinking. Services are free, confidential and local.</p>
<p>Derbyshire Alcohol Advice 1st Floor Dents Chambers 81 New Square Chesterfield Derbyshire S40 1AH Telephone number: 0845 3084010 or 01246 206514 Email address: daaf@daaf.uk.com</p>	<p>We offer support and help to anyone aged eighteen or over, who is concerned about their drinking, or is affected by someone else's drinking. We also work with parents and families affected by alcohol. We offer free advice to organisations and training to those working with people affected by alcohol.</p>
<p>FRANK (National) Contact: 0800 77 66 00 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com</p>	<p>Provides free, confidential drugs information and advice 24 hours a day.</p>