



# CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## THE MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE USE OR POSSESSION OF DRUGS

### **Introduction:**

At Callington Community College, we have an effective system of student support and carefully structured programme of Drug Education. Despite these efforts, there will still be some students who choose to experiment and use illegal drugs.

To manage such situations, we have developed clear policies and procedures. Our aim is to develop a consistent approach to dealing with and managing drug misuse at Callington Community College. The over-riding aim is to ensure the well being of all our students. Instances of possession, purchase, use of, supply of illegal drugs on the college premises will therefore be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

### **1. Aims:**

- 1.1 Ensure the well being of all our students
- 1.2 Prevent the incidents of drug misuse affecting academic studies or leading to personal problems.
- 1.3 Encourage students to refrain from drug misuse and if at risk, to seek counselling.

### **2. Procedures for staff to follow in response to a drugs related incident:**

- 2.1 Ascertain whether the student is in any immediate danger or under the influence of a substance. If they are, seek medical help following college procedures. If in doubt call the hospital for advice.
- 2.2 If a student has made a disclosure to you about their, or another student's involvement with drugs, contact a member of Leadership Team (LT).
- 2.3 If you have discovered a student or group of students with an illegal substance or with an unknown substance on the college site, inform a member of LT immediately.
- 2.4 LT action: Remove the substance from the student concerned, preferably in the presence of another member of staff. Where students are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, every effort should be first made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example, by asking them to turn out their pockets or to empty their school bag or locker. If the student refuses, parents and possibly the police will be called to in to deal with the situation. Intimate physical searches should never be undertaken by any member of staff.

- 2.5 The member of LT will work with the Head of Year to investigate the incident fully. All statements must be written by the member of staff or the student under the direction of the staff interviewing.
- 2.6 When all facts are known, a meeting will take place between the staff investigating and the Head teacher to determine the appropriate outcome.
- 2.7 In the event of an exclusion being deemed appropriate, a member of the LT will contact parents. A copy of the drugs policy and appropriate contacts with the outside agency will be sent with the exclusion letter.

### **3 Dealing with drug related incidents:**

- 3.1 Any student involved in an incident of drug misuse in college will be dealt with immediately. However, there are specific sanctions and support procedures that will be used as a starting point for any drugs related incidents. The following procedures are followed in the event of any breach of college rules.
- 3.2 Any health and safety issues are of primary consideration.
- 3.3 All aspects of the incident are investigated before deciding on any course of action. This may involve taking statements from the students/staff and may also mean removing the student(s) from the scene or from college whilst the investigation takes place.
- 3.4 Parents/carers, the police and other external agencies will be notified as appropriate.

### **4 warning signs of possible misuse**

- 4.1 Some signs of drug abuse can be confused with signs of other problems of quite innocent behaviour. Therefore, it is important that all staff (teaching and non-teaching) should take extreme care about not jumping to a conclusion, which might be inappropriate. However, in order to support staff in their identification of possible drug mixtures amongst students, we have grouped signs into three boxed categories.
- 4.2 *Where equipment is required:*
  - Containers made from silver foil perhaps discoloured by heat
  - Small bottles or pillboxes
  - Twists of paper
  - Straws
  - Syringes or needles
  - Empty solvent containers
  - Cigarette lighters
  - Drinks cans with extra holes and signs of scorching
  - Spoons discoloured by heat
  - Sugar lumps
  - Spent matches
  - Plastic bags or butane gas containers
  - Stamps, stickers, transfers

#### 4.3 Physical symptoms

- Sudden changes in mood, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Unusual smell, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Flushed face or neck
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on feet
- Staining on hands

#### 4.4 General Social Care

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of rumour about drugs
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing substantial
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings from home
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in attendance patterns
- Reluctance to participate in college activities
- Loss of interest in a sport or a hobby
- Sudden changes in friendship group
- Performance at college shows a marked decline
- Strangers on the college premises

## Appendix A

### Table of minimum responses:

Type of misconduct		Minimum Response
A	Smoking to and from the college etc	After college formal detention
B	Smoking on the college premises	One day exclusion from college (first offence).
C	Possession of alcohol Distribution of alcohol Drinking alcohol Substance abuse Possession of category B or C drugs	Fixed term exclusion
D	Possession of category A drugs Supplying of category A, B or C drugs	Permanent exclusion at the discretion of the principle

### Clarification of the terms 'supplying of drugs'

Supplying of drugs will be taken as instances where a drug is passed from one person to another irrespective of the exchange of money. If money has been exchanged this will be regarded as a more serious offence.

On advice from the police, if parties involved in a drugs transaction, believe the substance exchanged is an illegal substance, then the substance is deemed to be an illegal substance. This effectively means that the college does not need physical evidence of an illegal substance being supplied, if the intent is clear.

### Home / college liaison

- In all cases, parents will be informed of the matter as soon as a drug incident has been investigated and confirmed.
- Parents will be encouraged to become involved in order to support their child and to build and maintain good home / college relationships.
- Where appropriate, the support of outside agencies will be used.
- The incident will be placed on record through the normal system of communication.

## **Drug/substance misuse education in the curriculum**

- **Year 7**
  - As an aspect of the Communications programme.
- **Year 8**
  - Module Two
    - Tobacco and its affects, personal and global: 'The Breathers', 'The Tobacco Pickers' DVD.
    - What is a drug? Alcohol awareness.
- **Year 9**
  - Autumn 02
    - Drugs and alcohol awareness – cannabis and other illegal drugs.
    - Legislation around drugs and alcohol – why are laws necessary?
    - Presentation from the Police
- **Year 10**
  - Spring 02
    - The Drugs Box
    - 'The Individual in Society': assessing risks and impact on the individual, family, community and society.
    - Visitors from Alcoholics Anonymous
- **Year 11**
  - Spring 02
    - 'The self, diversity and equality': alcohol and self-esteem.
    - Websites for information and health, e.g. <http://www.talktofrank.com/> or <http://www.ruthinking.co.uk/>

### **Confidentiality**

The college will endeavour to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of the incident/disclosure in order to retain the trust of students and parents. However, the students should understand that this cannot be guaranteed. Other students' names will not be included in any communication. Students will be made aware of the obligation staff will be under to inform appropriate agencies when a disclosure is made.

## **Appendix B**

### **The legal position - Misuse of Drugs Act :**

Under this act, it is an offence to possess or supply certain types of drugs unless they have been prescribed for personal medical use. Within controlled drugs there are three categories; Category A, Category B and Category C. Drugs can be divided into the following categories:

- Depressants – (designed to slow down the body)
- Stimulants – (designed to give a feeling of energy aggression)
- Hallucinogenic (substances that alter perceptions)
- Medicines (substances that alleviate the symptoms of illness).

#### **Category A**

- Heroin (slang – bot, china, dragon, H Scag, smack, junk) this can be identified as a white powder and is derived from the opium poppy. It can be smoked, sniffed, injected or inhaled.
- Cocaine (slang – Crack, rock, C, Charlie, coke, dust, snow) this can be used as a white powder or in a small white block, extracted from the cocoa plant. It is sniffed or injected. Crack is not smoked.
- Ecstasy (slang – E, adam, burgers, Dennis the menace, brownies, MDMA, XTC) this will be found in capsules and tablets of various sizes and swallowed.
- Amphetamines (slang – speed, whiz, sulph, uppers, stimulants) can be included in Category A if prepared for an injection or Category B if injected.

#### **Category B**

- Cannabis (slang –hash, grass, dope, ganja, pot, blow, draw, marijuana). Hash is a brown solidified resin from the cannabis plant, whereas grass consists of dried leaves of the cannabis plant. This substance is smoked with tobacco or smoked on its own. It can be eaten. Hallucinogenic mushrooms and solvents are not illegal unless otherwise prepared or knowingly sold for eating or sniffing.

#### **Category C**

- Tranquilisers and some painkillers.

#### **Volatile Substances**

Alkyl/Butyl Nitrates (slang – Poppers, Liquid Gold, Ram, Thrust, Rock Hard, Kix, TNT). Available on prescription only as a clear straw coloured liquid. Vapour inhaled through the mouth or nose. Possession is not illegal but supply can be an offence. Also in this category are solvents and propellant gases including aerosols.

### **Licensing Act 1964 (Amended 2003) and Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (Amended 1997)**

This legislation makes it illegal to sell alcohol to young people under the age of 18. It is an offence to give alcohol to children under five, but those over five can consume alcohol on private premises.

### **Children and Young Peoples Act 1933 (Amended 2007)**

This act makes it illegal to supply tobacco to anyone under the age of 18 years, knowing that it will be misused.

### **Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985**

It is illegal to supply any substance to anyone under the age of 18 years knowing that it will be misused

### **Related Policies**

Behaviour policy

### **Related Documents**

Department for Education – Screening, searching and confiscation Jan2012

### **Governing Body Review**

Annually or in the event of an incident