



CALLINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

THE MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS OF DRUG MISUSE

At Callington Community College we have a very effective system of student support and a 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 or supply of illegal drugs on the college premises will therefore be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

The aim of the policy is to:

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

PROCEDURES TO FOLLOW IN RESPONSE TO A DRUGS RELATED INCIDENT

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. Where appropriate, call the hospital for advice.
2. If a student has made a disclosure to you about their, or another student's involvement with drugs, contact a member of Senior Management Team (SMT).
3. If you have discovered:
 - a) A student or group of students with an illegal substance or with an unknown substance.
 - b) An illegal or unknown substance on the college site

Inform a member of the SMT immediately. **SMT action:** Remove the substance from the student concerned, preferably in the presence of another teacher. 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, the police will be called in to deal with the situation. Intimate physical searches should never be undertaken by any member of staff.

4. The member of SMT 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. Accurate recording of the incident is essential. The record should be factual and contain the necessary detail to provide a clear picture of the incident.
5. When all facts are known, a meeting will take place between the staff investigating and the Head teacher to determine the appropriate outcome.
6. In the event of an exclusion being deemed appropriate, a member of the SMT will contact parents. A copy of the drugs policy and appropriate contacts with the outside agency will be sent with the exclusion letter.

DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

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:

- The health and safety is taken care of first.
- 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.
- Parents/carers, the police and other external agencies will be notified as appropriate.

THE LEGAL POSITION

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

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 two categories; Category A and Category B. Drugs can also 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 is swallowed.
- ❖ LSD (slang – acids, tabs, blotters, frash, lucy, dots, transfers, rhubarb and custard) this is generally made into small white or brown tablets, or will be found as blotting paper soaked in chemicals. These substances are 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/C

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.

Volatile Substances

Alkyl/Butyl Nitrates (slang – Poppers, Liquid Gold, Ram, Thrust, Rock Hard, Kix, TNT). Available on prescription only, as a clear or 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 and Children and Young Persons Act 1933

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 5, but those over 5 can consume alcohol on private premises.

Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (Amended 1991)

This act makes it illegal to supply tobacco to anyone under the age of 16 years. It is also an offence for children 16 and under to smoke in public.

Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985

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

WARNING SIGNS OF POSSIBLE MISUSE

Some signs of drug misuse 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 misuse amongst students, we have grouped signs into three broad categories.

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

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, sleeplessness 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 foot
Staining on hands

General Social Care

Keeping away from other students
Being the subject of rumour about drugs
Use of drug slang
Excessive spending or borrowing substantial sums of money
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

TABLE OF MINIMUM RESPONSES

Type of Misconduct	Minimum Response
Smoking to and from the college etc.	After college formal detention (written work to include affects of smoking)
Smoking on the college premises.	One day exclusion form college (first offence).
Possession of alcohol Distribution of alcohol Drinking alcohol (given by another student) Substance Abuse Possession of Category B or C drugs	} Fixed term exclusion
Possession of Category A drugs Supplying of Category A, B or C drugs	} Permanent exclusion

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, believed 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.

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.