

**BEBINGTON HIGH SPORTS COLLEGE**



**DRUG & SUBSTANCE MISUSE  
POLICY**

**Agreed/Reviewed by Governors – see reverse**

# **Bebington High School Sports College**

## **Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy**

This policy was revised in December 2008 and is to be reviewed in December 2009.

### **Policy Development**

The previous policy was revised in the light of the legal requirements for Drugs Education in schools.

### **Statement of Intent**

The health and safety of everyone involved with Bebington High School Sports College is the responsibility of the whole school community. This includes pupils, parents, staff members, school governors, as well as the Local Education Authority.

Bebington High School Sports College condones neither the misuse of drugs nor alcohol by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances. It acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

We have a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. Fundamental to this is the sharing of responsibility with parents, by keeping them informed and involved. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to successful implementation of this policy.

### **Policy Aims**

We believe in and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse.

- a) to enable students to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- b) To widen understanding about health and social issues, such as sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- c) To encourage understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance abuse.
- d) To provide opportunities for students to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid misuse of drugs.

### **Policy Objectives**

- a) to enhance students' decision making skills, using drugs education as a vehicle.
- b) to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- c) to provide accurate information about substances.
- d) To enable school to respond effectively to drug-related incidents.

### **Drugs Education**

These aims and objectives are fulfilled in the taught and informed curriculum. We deliver in the taught curriculum through PSCE and science. Opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other parts of the teaching programme. Opportunities are available within the

PSCHE programme and through the involvement of outside agencies to provide students with education in drugs awareness.

### **Key Stage 3 Knowledge and Understanding**

- a) School rules related to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents, illegal drugs and responses to drug-related incidents.
- b) Information about legal and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks.
- c) Scientific terms e.g. use, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose.
- d) Different categories of drugs – including stimulants, depressants, analgesics, and hallucinogens.
- e) The law relating to drugs.
- f) The misuse of drugs in sport.
- g) The effect of different levels of alcohol.
- h) Advice and support available locally and nationally.

### **Skills**

- a) Identifying risks to health.
- b) Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.
- c) Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drug misuse.

### **Attitudes**

- a) Attitudes and beliefs about drugs and drug users among different groups in society.
- b) Impact of the media and advertising on young people's thinking.
- c) Attitudes towards drugs and laws relating to drugs.
- d) Acceptance of responsibility for one's own actions.
- e) Taking responsibility for one's own and other people's safety.

### **Key Stage 4 Knowledge and Understanding**

- a) School rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs and responses to drug related incidents.
- b) Information about drugs including their legal status, effects and appearance.
- c) Personal, social, financial, biological and psychological effects of drug misuse.
- d) Dangers associated with particular drugs.
- e) Legal responsibilities and rights.
- f) Local and national advice and support services.

### **Skills**

- a) Identifying and assessing risks.
- b) Communicating with peers, parents and professionals.
- c) Decision-making and assertiveness in situations relating to drugs.
- d) Managing conflict and aggressive behaviour.
- e) Communicating drug advice to other young people.

## **Attitudes**

- a) Social and cultural influences on young people.
- b) Attitudes towards drugs, drug users and misusers and laws relating to drugs.
- c) Individuals' responsibilities for their own actions.

## **INSET**

INSET is recognised as essential in order to increase staff awareness and to encourage and develop skills needed to deal effectively with sensitive situations. This is an on-going process and will be required to be updated from time to time. LA advice and training will be advertised to staff.

## **The Law on Drugs**

It is an offence under the misuse of drugs Act 1971:

- to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another.
- to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug. It is a defence to this offence to remove the drug from someone to prevent them from committing an offence, providing that as soon as possible afterwards, it is destroyed or delivered into police custody.
- for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of the premises knowingly to permit or suffer the smoking, supplying, attempting to supply controlled drugs on their premises.

## **Referral Procedures for Dealing with Substance Use/ Abuse**

Account must be taken of the detailed advice below. See also attached appendices (flow chart illustrating Merseyside Agreed Protocol and Wirral Drug Information Form).

## **Reasons for Concern**

Staff may be alerted to a potential problem in one of the following ways – rumour, report, recognition or disclosure.

### **a) Rumour**

It is essential to consider how reliable the source of information is. If a decision is made to question the student(s) directly or others, then this should be done in a positive way, out of concern for well-being. If it is believed that the rumours may be unfounded and extremely difficult to substantiate, it is better to monitor the situation and be prepared to intervene if further information is forthcoming.

### **b) Report**

A member of staff, a parent, a member of the public, or another student may pass on information about a student who is said to be using drugs.

### **c) Recognition**

A student may be found in possession of drugs, using drugs, or in an intoxicated state.

### **d) Disclosure**

Disclosure may be whether unintentional or unspecified, asking for information/advice/support.

## **Health and Safety**

As a general principle, if information is disclosed, or if an incident occurs which it is believed may seriously affect the health and safety of an individual student or others, it must be acted upon. If the student is not in agreement, it must be with his/her knowledge.

## **Confidentiality**

It is important that relations between staff and students are based on mutual trust and respect. Students may approach staff with information which, if kept confidential, is against the best interests of the students, or others in the school or wider community. Students need to know that whilst support will always be forthcoming and that staff are prepared to listen to them, it may be necessary to tell other people. The student should always be told when others are involved. It may be possible to offer the opportunity of referral to, or contact with, an outside agency which can offer the student the degree of confidentiality required.

Any member of staff who has information re suspected or actual drug usage must communicate this information immediately to the Headteacher who will follow the Merseyside Agreed Protocol. In the event of the Headteacher's absence or unavailability, the information should be referred to another member of the Leadership Group.

## **Action**

If a young person is found in possession of a suspicious substance, try to establish the facts without over-reacting. Ask who is involved, what substance is involved, the purpose of possession –found, handling, personal use, dealing. If possible, remove the substance in the presence of a witness. If no witness is available, do not leave the substance there but receive it or retrieve it, within the bounds of professional discretion, from the student's possession.

The following guidelines should be observed :

- a) Remove the substance and record date, time, place and circumstances when it came into your possession.
- b) Record the substance's size and appearance, without investigating its nature.
- c) If possible, have the record countersigned by a witness.
- d) Take the substance immediately to the Headteacher in the first instance, or other member of the Leadership Group in the event of their unavailability. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safekeeping. To do so may place you at risk.

- e) The Headteacher will contact the Wirral LA School Adviser ,Paul Roberts(te who will provide advice, support and liaise where necessary. Merseyside Police Drugs Unit will be contacted on 07801 740545 / 0780 741781 so that the substance can be tested, identified and destroyed.
- f) All action taken must be recorded.

### **Further Action**

Decisions taken will reflect individual circumstances. Disciplinary procedures may be taken which involve temporary or permanent exclusion. Simultaneous recourse to medical and or other support may also be made, taking account of the student's welfare. Referrals for support and counselling can be made through

- a) Response
- b) Educational Social Welfare Service
- c) School Nursing Service
- d) The student's General Practitioner
- e) Children and Young People's Department

### **Contact with Parents /Carers**

Parents/Carers will expect to be informed if their son/ daughter has been involved with drugs/solvents. Staff should be aware of the need for sensitivity in making contact with parents. The Headteacher may make contact or delegate this responsibility to another member of staff. Whenever possible, the student should be encouraged to confide in parents, either individually, or with support. If it is believed that parents must be contacted and the student is against this, course of action, this should still be done with the student's knowledge, and the implications of contact discussed thoroughly. Consideration must be given as to whether it is helpful to have the student present when the parents are being informed.

Parents may be contacted through a home visit, by letter or by telephone. This will depend on individual circumstances. The only grounds for not informing parents immediately are if it is believed they may seriously over-react and possibly cause physical harm to the student, or, if they are believed to be directly involved in the situation causing concern.

### **Liaison with the Media**

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one and it is likely to generate interest from the local and national press, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LEA Press Officer and the Legal Department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the students, their families and the school.