



Felpham Community College Drug Education Policy

(including Policy in Response to Drug-related Incidents)

The Governing Body of Felpham Community College adopted the Drug Education Policy policy on 30 June 2022.

The College Perspective

Drug use, both for medicinal and recreational purposes, is a part of our culture and society today. The drug scene is complex and incidents of drug abuse, which are becoming more prevalent nationally, are not limited to inner-city areas. At Felpham Community College we strongly disapprove of the misuse of any drug, other than for approved medicinal purposes. We recognise and accept that we have a responsibility to the college and to the wider community to ensure that all students understand the health risks linked to drug misuse as well as the legal situation and the links to crime. Our role is to educate the students about drugs through our planned Citizenship programme as well as to instruct them on the consequences of their misuse. Part of our role is also to deal with any incidents of misuse or the illegal supplying of drugs to other students at the college.

Definition

A drug is any substance, taken into the body, which alters the way in which the body functions either physically, emotionally or mentally. It can also alter behaviour. Drugs can encompass legally available substances, eg alcohol, tobacco, caffeine and solvents; over the counter and prescribed medicines, eg tranquillisers and pain killers; and illegal drugs, eg cannabis, ecstasy and heroin.

Drug Education Programme

Drug Education is taught within the Citizenship programme. It is taught by teachers as well as outside agencies including the Police and local drugs agencies. The emphasis of the drug education programme is prevention, giving students the opportunity to become more informed and to discuss the issues involved.

Opportunities for students and parents to become more informed about Drugs Education may include theatre company workshops, information evenings for parents and the Citizenship programme itself.

Policy in Response to Drug-related Incidents

Disciplinary Action and Drugs

Any conduct by a student involving illegal drugs or the inappropriate use of legal drugs will lead to a disciplinary investigation and possibly a disciplinary sanction.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

In the event of an incident involving drugs within the college, the Headteacher will decide upon the action to be taken. The Headteacher will always be informed and co-ordinate the college response, if drugs are found on the premises.

Process for dealing with drug related incidents

1. Any incident will be fully investigated before deciding upon a course of action.
2. If there is reasonable justification/suspicion, the college will adopt various approaches to reduce drug-related offences by random searches, use of external drug-dog agencies and metal detectors.
3. The college may carry out regular searches on students in order to safeguard all students; refusal to be searched could be deemed as an assumption of guilt and/or deception of possession of contraband items.
4. Each incident will be dealt with on an individual basis so that the full circumstances can be taken into account.
5. The college response will be immediate with parents and Police involved at the earliest opportunity. It will be important to consider the feelings of parents upon initial contact, especially when considering the manner in which they will be contacted, ie by telephone or face to face. As a duty of care, we will contact parents if we suspect their child may be using drugs or if we hear rumours to that effect. If necessary we will direct parents to outside agencies who may be able to provide help or support.
6. Punishment, in general, will be firm with sanctions ranging up to suspensions, including permanent exclusion. The sanction will be dependent on the seriousness of the particular incident as follows:

Suspension	Possession/use of an illegal drug Inappropriate use of prescribed drugs Alcohol abuse Solvent abuse
Permanent exclusion	Supplying or intending to supply an illegal drug Repeated possession and/or use of an illegal drug.
7. Behaviour off the college premises or outside normal college hours in college uniform will, in so far as such behaviour affects college discipline, also be investigated by the college and responded accordingly.
8. Offending students and their parents will be offered appropriate support and guidance, including a list of agencies which may be of help to them.

Confidentiality

Students must be aware that members of staff cannot promise confidentiality and that any information they divulge about drug use will be passed on to the Headteacher. Students may be referred to a specialist agency and parents informed. The work of such a specialist agency would then be undertaken in confidence.

Referral

Any student, either at his/her request or at the college's recommendation, may be referred to an outside agency in order to discuss their problems confidentially. This will enable them to talk to someone in whom they have confidence and with whom they feel comfortable.

Parental Involvement

The college seeks close co-operation with parents in educating students about drugs. By informing parents about incidents in college as well as providing them with information about the college's policy and drug-education in general, we aim to help them to develop a greater understanding. Meetings will be held as appropriate, in conjunction with the Health Authority and the Police, in order to inform parents of the college's policy and other related issues.