

# Ernest Bevin College



## Policy for

### DRUGS, ALCOHOL and TOBACCO EDUCATION

## Responsibility

Principal, Head of Citizenship

## Aims

1. This policy should reflect the college ethos (of a caring and responsible organisation) which does not condone the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco (DAT). However the college accepts a duty to prepare and help young people to manage these issues.
2. To inform about the use and misuse of drugs alcohol and tobacco. To make the college stance on the possession, use, buying or selling of DAT clear
3. To develop coping skills and enable informed choices for managing situations involving drugs, alcohol tobacco and illicit substances.
4. To deliver Drugs Education in line with the Education Act, 1993, Circular 4/95.
5. To ensure that pupils of all abilities can access materials and teaching.

## Guidelines

1. Drugs education should be delivered in a manner which is sensitive to cultural and religious beliefs. At no stage should drugs education encourage drug use. Pupils should be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, respect and dignity.  

They should show responsibility and sensitivity towards the needs of others. They should be able to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that all must behave responsibly in drug related matters.
2. Drugs Education is delivered by the Science Department and within Citizenship / PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education). Areas which are studied include facts about various types of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, the impact of these upon physical and mental health, the legal situation and why some people use drugs.
3. Drugs Education is also taught by outside agencies and teachers. Students may wish to investigate drug problems as a citizenship issue and act upon it as their contribution to society coursework. Sensitive issues will be discussed in an open and honest way which is relevant both to individuals and to groups of young people and which reflects respect for all groups in society.
4. Resources include: Text books, in house programme, videos, I.T. Curriculum Guidance and Health Education materials from outside agencies.
5. Advice/information is part of the programme. Individually pupils are given advice/information when they approach teachers; this is done conscious of the need not to contravene what may be parents' wishes. Confidentiality is always observed, though teachers may have to make informed judgements about confidentiality and the individual pupil's needs and overall wellbeing. Tutors may be consulted, in confidence, where it is judged appropriate. The college nurse can offer a degree of confidentiality to all young people on a one to one basis.

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6. Should a member of staff have concerns about a student in relation to misuse of drugs, alcohol or tobacco they should refer to the tutor, head of year or designated member of staff for safeguarding. Interventions and support may be organised and monitored through the college welfare panel and inclusion team.
7. The college accepts that drugs, alcohol and tobacco are themes that young people need to be educated about in order to manage their lives and reduce risk. However the college will not tolerate the possession, sale or use of these items on the premises, on a college journey or whilst travelling to and from college.
8. The teacher in charge of Citizenship will lead in issues regarding substance use and abuse by pupils. They will work with professionals from other organisations to plan and deliver drugs, alcohol and tobacco education.

## Implementation

1. Drugs Education is taught by members of the Science Faculty and through Citizenship programmes of study.
2. The approaches within the Science Faculty and within Citizenship are distinct. The latter area places greater emphasis on the social context, whereas the Science Department takes a more biological approach.
3. For matters relating to inappropriate use, sale or possession of drugs, please read the college's 'Code of Conduct' and our discipline / anti-bullying and harassment policy. The college will act appropriately if a student is found to have breached clear boundaries in relation to drugs, alcohol or tobacco. Students found in possession or using an illegal substance will, at the Principal's discretion, face a fixed term exclusion. Students found to be selling illegal substances will, at the Principal's discretion, be permanently excluded. This applies to all students regardless of age.

## Evaluation

This policy should be the subject of an annual review, through discussion with staff and pupils.



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