

**TREVIGLAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE****POLICY STATEMENT: DRUG EDUCATION AND INCIDENTS**

**The college works to prepare students for the world in which they will live and will prepare, inform and educate young people about the possible consequences of drug use. We are committed to the health, safety and well-being of members of the college community.**

**Background:**

The college is a non-smoking site and we implement a non-smoking policy which includes e cigarettes and applies to all members of the college community and visitors to the college.

Health Education is a vital part of our Personal & Social Education programme. The PSE programme at Treviglas Community College is regularly reviewed and the content of the "drugs related" curriculum re-examined. In line with provision for "drugs education" nationally. Drugs are part of the society in which we live and Treviglas recognises that it is essential to help young people to develop the knowledge and skills to enable them to reach well informed decisions on their own future contact with drugs and to enable them to grow up safely.

N.B. When we use the term "**drug**" in our policy statement, we mean any substance which changes the way the body functions, mentally, physically or emotionally and that can affect the behaviour of the person using, misusing or abusing that substance. Medically prescribed substances used by a patient in accordance with medical advice are specifically excluded from this policy statement (our "medicines" policy explains our stance in this area more clearly and specifically).

The college acknowledges that an appropriate response to incidents may be through the provision of education and we actively co-operate with a range of other agencies, including Community Police Officers, Social Services, Children, Young People and Families. This liaison helps to develop our policy, deliver our programme and advise us in our response to any incidents involving drugs about which we may become aware.

Response to incidents may in general terms, be through a session or an assembly, which may be appropriate for either Key Stage 3 or 4 or on an individual incident basis. The college will respond to all reported incidents of substance abuse as per "The Management of Drug Related Issues and Incidents" section of this policy.

The college does not accept the possession, use or supply of drugs by any member of the college, staff, governors, students or parents or any other person acting as part of the college community whether voluntary or employed by another agency or organisation. The college would expect that all its community adhere to the policy whilst supervising young people in college or on college educational visits, but the college recognises that adults or other groups who may not be part of the college community may instigate incidents.

Our approach will seek to encourage the optimum safety and well-being of all students by reflecting current good practice. We recognise national statistics which point to the fact that there has been an increase in both the frequency and range of drug use in Britain amongst young people. We also recognise that there is a majority of our students who choose not to use drugs and we will continue to actively encourage all students to adopt this approach. We will also work constructively to follow a programme of "harm reduction" for all students and this programme will be especially relevant for those who may be tempted to use drugs, or be associated with these people.

**Agreed Values Framework:**

The college believes in and supports the following educational aims in respect of education relating to drug use:

- ◆ To provide accurate information to all students about drugs, drug incidents and the current legal and college policy framework which controls their use within our society.

- ◆ To enable all students to see the policy, increase their knowledge, develop positive attitudes & values and practise skills, which will allow them to make healthy, informed choices.
- ◆ To inform parents through appropriate documentation and the web site about the ethos of the college.
- ◆ To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and abuse.
- ◆ To widen understanding about related health & social issues.
- ◆ To seek to minimise risks that users & potential users face.
- ◆ To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate help and support.
- ◆ To seek to empower students and minimise any adverse effect of the influence of others by encouraging assertiveness in our students.

### **The Management of Drug Related issues and incidents:**

#### Dealing with Suspected Illegal Drugs

- ensure a second adult witness is present – consent for a search must be sought. Police must be contacted if a personal search is required
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of date and time of seizure and witness present
- store in secure location with limited access to two senior staff
- without delay, notify Police who will collect it. The law does not require a college to divulge to the Police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken. Where a student is identified, the Police will be required to follow set internal procedures
- record full details of the incident, including the Police incident reference number
- inform parents/carers, unless this would jeopardise the safety of the student

College staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substance. Police can advise on analysis and formal identification. If formal action is to be taken against a student the Police should make arrangements for them to attend a police station accompanied by an appropriate adult for interview. Only in exceptional circumstances should arrest or interview take place at college.

Where a suspected substance is found within the confines of a college or college premises and no-one can be associated with that substance, the college may dispose of the substance in the appropriate way.

In known cases, involving one or more students of the college in drug related issues, the college will:

- Consider each case individually, on its own merits
- Take its responsibility seriously whenever students are under our supervision, or recognised as being representatives of the college, whether on our college site or not
- **(Incidents)** Secure a response which will guarantee the continued safety and well-being of students at the college. Incidents involving possession, use or supply of any drug will result in disciplinary action being taken, which may include permanent exclusion. Pastoral support will be offered to students and parents and this may include contact with other agencies. A senior member of staff will notify the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student involved in such an incident, at the earliest opportunity unless this would jeopardise the safety of the student
- **(Issues)** Ensure contact with professional support agencies, to provide advice and counselling
- Deal sensitively with any issues related to children and their families and not disclose information to individuals or agencies without first considering the health and safety of the student and the college community
- Contact the police if it is suspected that the incident involves the use of illegal drugs.
- Arrange for the Headteacher to take responsibility for liaison with the media to ensure that any reporting of such incidents remains in the best interests of any young people involved, their families and the college as a whole

Where students or staff find needles or syringes, they should always be advised to dispose of them safely with other sharps or similar items. If no sharps bin (science faculty) is available for

disposal, Council Environmental department should be advised and asked to dispose of the item(s).

If a teacher has information about offences in the local area it is recommended that the college inform the Neighbourhood Beat Manager or Youth Interventions Officer.

### Educational Visits

If a member of staff suspects a student of being under the influence of drugs/alcohol solvents whilst on an educational visit:

- medical emergency – follow first aid procedures and call ambulance
- no medical emergency – keep student calm and under observation – ask parent/carer to collect
- check if student is legally entitled to be in possession of the drug/substance
- check if the drug/substance is suspected to be illegal and/or in breach of college discipline code
- take possession and store securely

If a student breaches the rules of the visit parents may have to meet the cost of the impact upon the visit including transportation.

For foreign visits students and parents should be made aware of drug laws in other countries.

This policy is based upon the college's previous statement and has been agreed as part of the review of drugs education involving the Headteacher, the SLT and the college safeguarding team. The policy has been considered and amended as necessary by students (student council) and has been adopted by full governors.