

SHIRLEY HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMING ARTS COLLEGE

DRUGS EDUCATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

This document uses the term drug to include; alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, over-the-counter / prescription medicines, new psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and volatile substances (including solvents), unless otherwise specified; that has potential to affect how a person thinks, feels and behaves.

Philosophy

Drug use and misuse have become increasingly common in our society. Shirley High School recognises the need to prepare and equip young people for life in a drug using society. The school needs to be prepared and able to deal with the broad range of drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the lives of our students and others involved in the life of the school.

Shirley High School recognises that the possession, use, supply (or selling) of illegal or unauthorised drugs is unacceptable, operating a ‘zero tolerance’ policy.

However, if an incident involving drugs should occur, the first concern is always for the health and safety of the school community and meeting the needs of students. Thus, administering first aid and summoning help in the case of medical emergencies will always take priority before dealing with any issues.

Principles

This policy applies to all employees, students, parents and carers, governors, visitors to the school including contractors, and partner agencies working within the school.

For this policy, the geographical boundaries of the school include all buildings and grounds including car parks, playgrounds, fields and the redgra. It includes the School House and its designated garden. This policy also covers any incident that may occur off school premises while on school business - school day visits and residential visits both within the UK and abroad.

Our Aim and Objectives for Drug Education

Drug education is most effective when it is part of a well-planned programme of PSHEE delivered in a supportive environment, where students are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion, feel confident about asking for help if necessary and staff have access to high quality training and support.

The aim of drug education is to provide students with opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes, and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others actions.

To increase students’ knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:-

- the short-term and long-term effects and risks of drugs.
- the rules and laws relating to drugs.
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities.
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers.
- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

To develop students' social and emotional skills so they can make informed choices and keep themselves safe and healthy including:-

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk.
- communicating effectively.
- resisting pressures.
- finding information, help and advice.
- devising problem solving and coping strategies.
- developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

To enable students to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use, and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, exploring media and social influences.

The programme is constantly under review to ensure that the health education element is adequate and appropriately timed.

Organisation, Planning and Delivery of Drug Education

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) member with line management responsibility for PSHEE co-ordinates Drug Education.

In PSHEE and Science students consider issues to do with smoking, alcohol and other drugs (medicinal, recreational and illegal). PSHEE is delivered by form tutors supplemented by outside agencies. These include the Safer Schools' Police team, Croydon Drop-In, Alcoholics Anonymous and the school nurse.

In all subjects it is inevitable that the teaching of apparently unrelated topics will occasionally lead to a discussion on aspects of drug education. Such discussions are relatively limited and set within the context of the subject concerned, and does not constitute part of the Drugs Education programme. Teachers will draw upon their professional judgement and common-sense to deal effectively with such occurrences.

Management of Drugs Incidents in School

The Senior Vice Principal with responsibility for Student Wellbeing is the named member of staff for drug related incidents.

When a student is discovered either in possession of, and/or under the influences of, and/or dealing in, and/or having admitted to using illegal drugs, the following course of action will be taken:

- Medical assistance will be sought if appropriate.
- The Safer Schools' Police Team will be informed of the incident and their advice taken regarding any subsequent action.

In the case of controlled drugs, in taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs the following will be undertaken:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the Safer Schools' Police Team without delay, and follow their advice regarding police collection, storage and disposal.
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;

- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the student or if the police have advised not to do so;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and follow safeguarding procedures.

Students will be permanently excluded if:

- they have been excluded for being in possession of drugs previously or,
- they are found selling or supplying illegal drugs

Students will be given a fixed term exclusion if:

- they are found to be under the influence of a drug or
- found in possession of a drug for the first time or
- it is necessary to do so pending further investigations into a drug related incident

Parents/carers will be informed of the counselling and support services available within Croydon and supplied with relevant names and telephone numbers, and advised, if appropriate, to seek medical advice.

The school will expect parents/carers to seek help from these services on behalf of the student and his/her family.

If a student needs to take any medication, parents/carers must inform the school Medical Officer in writing. The medication must be in a clearly marked container, including dosage and time of administering. These are locked in a secure cupboard and the key is held by the Medical Officer.

Responding to Media Enquiries

The Principal will respond to any media enquiry regarding, for example, a drug incident in school. When an incident has occurred, the Croydon Emergency Action Plan for Schools will be followed.

Links to Pastoral Systems and Community Services

- Students can be signposted to various internal and external support services through PSHEE lessons, assemblies, school council, information boards, Heads of Year and the Attendance and Welfare Officer (AWO).
- Heads of Year and the AWO can refer students to external agencies appropriate to the needs of individual students.

Involvement of Parents/Carers

- Parents/carers of students involved in drug use and misuse will be supported and signposted to external agencies, if as appropriate.
- If a parent/carer comes on to the school premises under the influence of drugs, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will ask them to leave the premises, if it is deemed safe for them to do so. If the parent /carer refuses, the police will be called. Safeguarding concerns will also be considered and safeguarding procedures followed as appropriate.

Definitions and Terminology

Class A:

These include, cocaine and crack (a form of cocaine), ecstasy, heroin, LSD, methadone, methamphetamine (crystal meth), magic mushrooms containing ester of psilocin and any Class B drug which is injected.

Class B:

These include amphetamine (not methamphetamine), barbiturates, codeine, ketamine and cannabis. All cathinone derivatives, including mephedrone, methylone, methedrone and MDPV were brought under control as Class B substances in 2010.

Class C:

These include anabolic steroids, minor tranquillisers, GBL and GHB, and khat.

Authorised Drugs:

Principally medicines and other drugs sanctioned for legitimate use (such as alcohol stored securely for a raffle, safe storage and use of hazardous chemicals). In all other circumstances drugs are unauthorised whether legal or not.

Volatile Substances:

Products, often household items, that contain chemicals which, if deliberately inhaled, can cause intoxication.

Drug Use:

The consumption of any drug, via any method. All drug use, including the use of medicines, has the potential to cause harm.

Drug Misuse:

Drug taking through which harm may occur, whether through intoxication, breach of school rules or the law, or the possibility of future health problems.

Drug Abuse:

Drug taking that harms health and functioning. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

Possession:

To have drugs on your person or amongst your possessions

Supply:

To have been in possession of drugs that have been passed to another person or had been intended for a third party

Selling:

To supply drugs in exchange for money or favour

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016:

The Psychoactive Substances Act received Royal Assent on 28 January 2016. The act applies across the UK and came into force on 26 May 2016.

The act makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess on custodial premises, import or export psychoactive substances; that is, any substance intended for human consumption that is capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

Links with other policies

This policy links with the following policies which can be read in conjunction:

- Child Protection Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Spiritual and Personal Development Policy (inc. PSHEE)

- Smoke Free School Policy
- Whole School Food Policy