



**Midhurst Rother College**

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# Midhurst Rother College

## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

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## **DRUG EDUCATION POLICY**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This policy is aimed at all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and agencies working with the College. The policy links with existing PSHCE, Citizenship, Drugs Management and College Discipline policies. Students will be consulted in the development of the policy.

Midhurst Rother College recognises that drug misuse in our society is a major threat to individuals, families and the wider community. Young people are influenced by their parents, their peers, youth culture and the media and schools alone cannot solve the problem of drug misuse in society.

An effective programme of drug education in College will work to ensure that young people are aware of the risks of drug taking and have the knowledge and skills to resist. Thus, we recognise our responsibility to treat drug misuse as an educational issue and to work, as appropriate, in partnership with the police, health services and parents to inform and protect the students of the College.

Whilst it is important to maintain a clear distinction between legal and illegal drugs, our policy is to place drugs education firmly in the context of an overall health education programme. Our aim is to enable students to make informed decisions highlighting the functions and potential dangers that all forms of drug use have in individual lives and society as a whole.

The College subscribes to the code of practice laid down by the West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team and as stated in 'Drugs Guidance for Colleges' Government 2009

<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/young-people/guidance-for-schools2835.pdf?view=Binary>

### **DEFINITIONS**

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally, or mentally. It includes legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, and solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, GHB, Ketamine and alkyl nitrites ('poppers').

### **VALUES AND AIMS**

Set in the broader context of personal, social, and health education, our drugs education reflects whole-College aims to provide a caring community in which young people can learn to respect themselves and

others and take responsibility for their own actions. We are committed to the health and safety of all members of the College community.

We aim to enable students 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.

**Drugs education should: -**

- Provide accurate information
- Correct misunderstandings
- Build on knowledge and understanding
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- Develop students' understanding of rules and laws
- Develop students' interpersonal skills
- Develop students' self-awareness and self-esteem
- Explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs
- Be relevant to the needs of students and the College community.

Fundamental to the College's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of our students with parents and carers. We strive for effective communication and co-operation. For the Management of Drugs Related Incidents, please see Appendix A.

**DRUGS EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM**

At Midhurst Rother College we have a cross-curricular approach towards the delivery of drugs education, through various departments' schemes of work. (For example drugs education is included in the statutory elements of the National Curriculum Science Order). However, it is through PSHCE that the major degree of drug education is delivered.

We view the main area for drug education as our broad-based programme of Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education. This programme offers the opportunity to reinforce the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give students the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life without glamorising the subject by singling it out for separate treatment. Students are consulted regularly in order to plan a curriculum that best meets their needs. Students' existing knowledge and understanding influence the planning of lessons. The programme is consistent with the College's policy on dealing with drug related incidents.

The following areas are considered through the course: -

**At Key Stage 3** the abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs are investigated via teacher-led sessions, participative methods and the use of outside speakers. There is a particular focus on tobacco in Year 7, alcohol in Year 8 and cannabis in Year 9.

However, these subjects are not viewed in isolation but incorporated into the PSHCE framework and aims to enable students to: -

- recognise personal responsibility for decisions about substance use.
- understand the basic facts about substances including their effects and relevant legislation.

- be aware of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance use.
- develop appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance use occurs.
- investigate peer group pressure and positive ways of saying “no”.

**At Key Stage 4** there is more emphasis on researching factual information about the effects of drugs, physiologically and psychologically, within a social framework. There is a particular focus on Class A drugs in Years 10 and 11. A variety of interactive and participatory approaches are used. This aims to enable students to: -

- understand that Britain is a drug-using society and recognise the different patterns of use and their effects, such as the transmission of HIV infection through shared needles and the detrimental effects on the foetus of all types of drug use.
- recognise that individuals are responsible for choices they make about drug use.
- understand how to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- analyse ‘safe’ levels of intake of some substances e.g. limited use of alcohol.
- discuss the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs.
- identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Our teaching must be responsive to changing trends in drug misuse and offer a clear and consistent message. It does not set out to shock or frighten students but rather to inform them and allow students to make informed choices. Students are given clear information about:

- The law on drug misuse via our police liaison officer.
- The implications for individuals, families, and society.
- College rules in relation to the misuse of drugs.

We seek to equip our students with skills to help them resist the pressure to experiment with drugs through detailed discussion of likely scenarios of peer pressure and through role-play exercises. We seek to generate, through informed discussion, positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles in our students, which will be strong enough to influence their behaviour.

A wide range of up-to-date, relevant and interesting materials are used, details of which are recorded in the schemes of work for PSHCE. The local police led by PC Chris Finch have contributed greatly to this as has the work with the Drugs Action Team (DAT) based in Chichester.

The College actively co-operates with other agencies such as community wardens, the LEA and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

#### **ASSESSMENT, MONITORING, EVALUATING AND REVIEWING DRUG EDUCATION**

The elements of drug education that form part of the Science curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 are assessed in accordance with the requirements of National Curriculum Science. Assessment in PSHCE lessons seeks to judge achievement in drugs education in wider terms than purely gains in factual knowledge. Methods include: -

- Seeking feedback from students at the end of lessons on their progress
- Achievements, both individually and as a group.

- Year 9 FAR on Cannabis legalisation
- Teacher assessment of activities conducted and work completed.
- Class discussion, aimed at helping students to identify what they should do next.
- Inviting students and teachers to reflect on the overall programme

**OUTSIDE SPEAKERS**

In order to enhance our own educational programme, we make use of a variety of visiting speakers to work with groups of students in College. At present we make regular use of PC Finch and other members of the local community team who run drug awareness sessions with different year groups in the College. We also have a local theatre group give a show and workshop to Year 9 students on the effect of alcohol covering both social and physical side effects. The contribution of visiting speakers complements our own teaching and is part of a planned overall programme. Visitors are never left alone to work with students and teachers are always involved in these sessions.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

We value the support and encouragement of parents in our efforts at preventing drug misuse. Parents are welcome to receive a copy of this policy document and are encouraged to discuss with staff at the College any concerns they may have about drug related issues.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Some students may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or with individual members of the College community. While staff will want to be supportive, it is clear that they work within child protection guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. Only in exceptional circumstances would sensitive information be passed on against a student’s wishes but teachers may have a moral and professional duty to do so, for example, in relation to cooperating with a police investigation and referring to external services.

**GOVERNORS**

The Local Governing Body of the College has the ultimate authority for the management of the College and for its educational provision and the Link Governor for PSHE programme is Mrs Angela Thornley. Responsibility for the drugs education programme is delegated to the Principal and teaching staff. Within the College itself, it is the responsibility of the Subject Leader PSHCE (Mr James Collins) to supervise curricular aspects of drug education.

Signed by ..... Principal  
 ..... Lead Governor for PSHCE  
 .....James Collins..... Curriculum Coordinator for PSHCE

Date signed .....

## **Appendix A**

### **The Management of Drugs Related Incidents at Midhurst Rother College**

The College takes the view that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within College boundaries, during the College day (including travelling from home to College and from College back home) and associated activities is inappropriate and unacceptable. In dealing with drug related incidents the College's primary concern is the health and safety of those involved and of the College community as a whole.

- Drug-related incidents may involve the possession or supply of drugs on the College premises or during a College activity off-site, or when those concerned are identifiable as members of the College. They may also involve the presence of someone who is under the influence of drugs taken elsewhere, or the reporting of incidents involving drug abuse by one or more of our students to the College by a third party.

#### **Roles and Expectations**

- Mrs C Denne is the designated senior member of staff with overall responsibility for all drug issues within the College.
- Any member of staff suspecting or hearing of an incident involving members of the College, at times when they are under the College's authority, must report the incident to the designated Vice -Principal.
- All College staff should receive drug awareness training, understand the College drug policy and their role in implementing the policy.
- Parents/ carers will be contacted by the College if their child's name is given in relation to any drug incident or if their child is involved in breaking the College's rules on drugs.
- The Chairman of the LGB will be kept informed of any drug-related incidents.
- The Police will be informed by the College of any known or suspected incident involving drugs and, in addition to any prosecution or legal penalties which may result, all those involved can expect to be subject to College based sanctions.

#### **Responding to drug-related incidents**

How any one incident will be dealt with will depend on its nature, but the health and safety of all those who might be affected will be of paramount importance. All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response

Incidents are likely to involve an emergency, intoxication, suspicions and rumour, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other authorised drugs such as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on College premises
- A student demonstrates inappropriate knowledge of drugs
- A student is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia
- A student is found to be supplying drugs on College premises

- A student is thought to be under the influence of drugs
- A staff member has information that the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs is taking place in the local area
- A student discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs

### **In an Emergency**

Where a person is unconscious, which may be as a result of drug use, staff with first aid qualifications will deal with the student and an ambulance will be called. The parent/carer will be informed and called to the College or, if appropriate, the hospital. The incident will be assessed and an attempt made to ascertain whether a substance has been taken. An accident report will be completed and a written report made to the Vice Principal, who will determine any further action to be taken.

### **Intoxication Drugs or Alcohol**

If appropriate and practical the person will be removed from lessons to the medical room and be accompanied at all times. If this is not possible the person will be isolated, supervised and kept in an appropriate place. Parent/Carers will be informed and called to the College to take their child home. An accident report will be completed.

### **Searching students for drugs, alcohol and so called legal highs**

From September 2010, legislation has given College staff the right to search any student suspected of carrying banned substances. This power allows College staff to search for substances they reasonably believe are illegal but which may, after testing, be found to be legal. Students will, as a matter of courtesy, be asked to agree to be searched although consent is not required. Searches will be conducted by two members of the same sex as the student and a search form will be completed and recorded. Where consent is refused and/or there is concern about personal safety, the matter will be referred to the police.

The College does not require the consent of a parent to carry out a search or to inform parents that a search has been carried out.

### **Police Involvement**

The College does not have a legal obligation to call the police or to report an incident involving drugs to the police. However, it is the policy of this College to contact the police where it is believed that an incident has involved illegal substances. Information about the illegitimate sale or supply of drugs will be passed onto the police.

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 designated members of staff are allowed to take possession of an illegal drug to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing that they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately. Mrs Denne will take responsibility for the secure storage and disposal of suspect items.

The College maintains a strong link with the Local Community Police and the Schools' Police Liaison Officer through their involvement in the drugs education curriculum, helping students to have a greater understanding of the role of the police, drugs and the law.

### **Sanctions**

The nature and severity of the sanctions imposed will depend upon the circumstances, but there is a strong possibility that temporary fixed-term and/or permanent exclusion is a likely outcome. In particular, students should understand that it is probable that any person found to be supplying drugs to others will be permanently excluded from the college.

### **Counselling**

Students' welfare is paramount and in all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling will be offered. Outside agencies such as the Drug Action Team provide additional support to students and their families. We believe that students who are vulnerable to or who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be given appropriate support and guidance. Students can self-refer to these confidential services or referrals can be made by the Pastoral Leader/Pastoral team.

## **Legal Drugs – Smoking and Alcohol Abuse**

### **Smoking**

Midhurst Rother College operates a total no-smoking policy. No student may smoke or bring tobacco products (and related equipment such as cigarette papers, lighters, filters etc) on to the College's premises. Smoking is deemed unacceptable whilst in College uniform (including outside the College day), by students known as members of our community and in the proximity to the College. All employees and adult visitors to the College are also required to refrain from smoking on College premises. Anti-smoking education is included in the programme of Drugs Education outlined above, as is education about the safe and acceptable use of alcohol.

### **Alcohol**

No student or visitor may bring alcoholic drink on to the College site, and the consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden at any time when a student is under the College's authority, except when it is provided legally and under adult control at specific College events when moderate social drinking is permitted for students and their guests.

It is accepted that members of staff and adult visitors will refrain from drinking alcohol in the College, except at certain occasional, traditionally-held social events.

Students who break the rules on smoking and the drinking of alcohol can expect to be the subject of sanctions of a magnitude which reflects the seriousness of their misconduct, with the ultimate sanction of temporary fixed-term or permanent exclusion available for especially severe, irresponsible or persistent offences.

**This policy is reviewed at least every year and in the light of any incident that may occur related to drugs.**