



CAMBRIDGE  
SCHOOL OF  
VISUAL &  
PERFORMING  
ARTS

## MISUSE OF NON-PRESCRIBED DRUGS POLICY (INCLUDING SMOKING)

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Key Staff	Assistant Principal Pastoral Care, Dean of students, Heads of House, College Nurses, Head of Welfare, Student Support and Welfare Advisor
Lead Staff for Review	Assistant Principal Pastoral Care

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## Introduction

We live in a drug-consuming community. Colleges are an integral part of the community and are therefore likely to come into contact with drug related issues in a variety of ways. CATS Cambridge/CSVPA aims to ensure that the College community is protected, supported and educated regarding drug related issues. Students are encouraged to respect their bodies and exercise control over what goes into them, in an informed and health promoting manner.

The Colleges play an important role in supporting and promoting attitudes, practices and understanding which encourage students to make informed decisions enabling them to choose a healthy lifestyle. We therefore strive to create an atmosphere in which students feel safe and able to discuss the problems and concerns, whilst developing an understanding of drugs and their use and misuse.

The Colleges reserve the right to adopt a zero tolerance policy in respect of the misuse and supply of drugs. The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs (such as those which are legal in other countries but are controlled substances in the UK) within College boundaries is unacceptable. Illegal drugs (See appendix 5) have no place in CATS College Cambridge/CSVPA. In every case of an incident involving drugs, the College's priority is the health and safety of the students and staff, meeting any medical emergency with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues.

## Purpose

This policy applies to staff, students, parents/carers and partner agencies working with the College on the premises and within the perimeters and also includes:

- Journeys in College time
- Work experience
- Residential trips
- During the College day
- Outside of the College day and in all residential accommodation

The overall responsibility for all misuse of drug issues within the College lies with the Principal/Rector. His/her responsibility includes overseeing the planning and co-ordination of drug education and the management of the misuse of drugs incidents in accordance with the procedure laid out in this policy.

All staff should be fully aware of the procedures for managing incidents, including whom they should inform and who has authority regarding issues such as searching College property and involving the police.

## Definitions

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, as used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs (Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) (see appendix 4)

- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

## Drug Education in the curriculum

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to: minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use; delay the age of onset of first use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for 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. Therefore drug education in CATS College Cambridge/CSVPA allows an opportunity for children/young people to

- Increase their knowledge, understanding and clarify misconceptions about the short-and long-term effects and risks of drugs use
- Rules and laws relating to drugs
- Impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- Prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
- Complex moral, social and political issues surrounding drugs
- Develop their personal and social skills to make informed decisions 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
- Enable them to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

Drug education is an entitlement for every student and is supported by Section 351, of the Education Act 1966 which requires every College to provide a balanced curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the College and of society.
- Prepares students at the College for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## APPROACH

Drug education will be taught in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment. Ground rules will be agreed, established and reviewed periodically through discussion with students. Teachers may use a selection of active learning approaches, e.g. action research, mind-mapping, case studies, creative writing, literature, discussion, external contributors, drama visits, formal debate, group work, interactive ICT, local surveys, media analysis, peer education, questionnaires, role-play, simulations, structured games, theatre-in- education, video supported by follow-up discussion etc. External contributors are always interviewed by the PDHE Coordinator or College Nurse before their first input.

The class teacher will always share teaching the lesson and always be in the classroom. A copy of the Misuse of drugs policy will be made available to all outside speakers.

## The role of the Police

### **Legal Drugs:**

The police will not expect to be routinely involved in incidents involving legal drugs but the College will inform the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area.

### **Illegal Drugs:**

CATS College Cambridge/CSVPA has no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police. Nevertheless, not informing the police may prove to be counter-productive for the College and wider community so the College may choose to do so. The police should, however, be involved in the disposal of suspected illegal drugs.

### **Police Interviews:**

In the event of a student being arrested, a responsible adult needs to be present with the student.

## Searches

All searches will be conducted under the guidance of the Search and Confiscation Policy.

## Responding to drug incidents

Drug incidents may include:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia found on College premises
- A student demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge for their age.
- A student is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- A student is found to be supplying drugs on College premises (friends sharing drugs, student being coerced to supply drugs, a group of friends taking it in turn to bring drugs in for their own use).
- A student, parent/carer or staff member 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.

These incidents will initially be treated as a safeguarding concern and should be reported as such and actions taken should align with safeguarding considerations.

A careful investigation will take place to judge the nature and seriousness of each incident, the needs of those involved and the most appropriate response. For example:

- What does the student have to say?
- Is this a one-off incident or longer-term situation?
- Is the drug legal or illegal?

- What quantity of the drug was involved?
- What was the student's motivation?
- Is the student knowledgeable and careful/reckless as to their own and others' safety and how was the drug being used?
- What are the student's home circumstances?
- Does the student know and understand the College policy and College rules?
- Where does the incident appear on a scale from 'possession of a small quantity' to 'persistent supply for profit'?
- If supply of illegal drugs is suspected, how much was supplied, and was the student coerced into the supply role, were they 'the one whose turn it was' to buy for others, or is there evidence of organised or habitual supply?

If during the course of the investigation the College decides that the police should be involved they should cease immediately in order to enable the police to conduct a full detailed enquiry.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider College community, and aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

**Possible responses include:**

- Early intervention and targeted prevention
- Referral
- Counselling
- Behaviour support plans
- Inter-agency programmes
- Fixed-period exclusion
- Pastoral support programmes
- A managed move
- Permanent exclusion

Some responses may serve to enforce and reinforce College rules. Any sanctions will always be justifiable in terms of:

- The seriousness of the incident
- The identified need of the student and the wider College community
- Consistency with published College rules, codes and expectations
- Consistency with disciplinary action for breaches of other College rules (such as theft, violence, bullying)

All students are to be made aware each year that CATS College Cambridge/CSVPA reserves the right to impose a zero tolerance policy towards drug use. Any student who has been found in possession of or using drugs may be permanently excluded. Should a student be allowed to return it will be on strict conditions which may include additional counselling and drugs testing which will be at parental expense.

## **Parents/Carers under the influence of drugs on College premises**

When a member of staff suspects that they are dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on College premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. In such instances, a member of the welfare team or a member of the senior management team must be called to discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made. The focus for staff will always be the maintenance of the child's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of parent's/carer's behaviour. Any incident involving concern for the safety of a child must be treated as a safeguarding concern and staff must follow the College Child Protection policy.

## **Staff conduct and drugs:**

**Tobacco** – CATS College Cambridge/CSVPA buildings are a 'no smoking' area. Students may smoke in designated spaces at the College. Students and staff may not use the same outside smoking areas.

**Alcohol** – Restriction of alcohol consumption during College hours and on College trips. There should be no consumption of alcohol by any staff during the working day, or while they have care of children/young people.

**Staff misuse/abuse** – if this is known or suspected the appropriate CEG policy and procedures should be followed.

## **The Needs of Students**

The College will ensure that students have access to up-to-date information on sources of help. Local and national help lines (including FRANK, NHS Smoking Helpline and Drink line), youth and community services and drug/health services will be prominently displayed so that those in need of help and who are reluctant to approach College staff can easily access it. Drug education programmes will also include details of services and help lines, explain how they work and develop student confidence in using them. Smoking will be covered in the Colleges' PSHE Programmes. However, bearing in mind the variety of cultural perceptions of smoking at CATS Cambridge/CSVPA, we may allow smoking areas for students in the College, whilst maintaining a policy of trying to persuade students to adopt healthy lifestyles.

### **Referral and external support:**

In every case of an incident involving drugs, the College will place the utmost priority on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues.

### **Confidentiality:**

Please refer to the Confidentiality Policy.

## Appendix 1

### External Agencies (National)

DRUGS	SMOKING	ALCOHOL
National drugs helpline 0800 776600 (24 hour)	Quit line 0800 00 22 00	Alcohol Concern 020 7928 7377 www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
Drugscope Information 020 7928 1211 www.drugscope.org.uk	NHS helpline 111	Drinkline 0800 917 8282 (24 hour free helpline)
Resolve 01785 817885 Information service on all aspects of solvent abuse		Al –Anon 0171 403 0800 Gives free confidential advice and support to people who have to live with someone else’s drinking
Adfam 020 7928 8898 Gives free confidential advice and support to friends and family of drug users		

### Useful Web sites

www.wrecked.co.uk	Alcohol information
Talktofrank.com Also 0800 776600	Government website about drugs
www.cannabishelp.org.uk	For reducing or stopping cannabis use
www.wiredforhealth	National Healthy College Standard