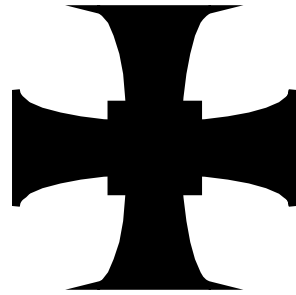


TRINITY SCHOOL



A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

DRUGS POLICY

Pastoral Committee

Reviewed: January 2017

Approved by the Pastoral Committee: February 2017

Ratified by the full Governing Body: March 2017

Next review: January 2019

This policy covers both Drugs Education and Drugs Incidents.

Introduction and aims

- 1 Trinity School is a Church of England Academy. Drugs education will take place within a clear moral framework, which fits with the Christian ethos of the school. Incidents involving drugs or other substances will also be dealt with, within that context, to care for potentially vulnerable young people involved in the possible misuse of drugs while giving very clear guidelines and expectations that all our students will seek to avoid such misuse, and be aware of the serious consequences if they do not.

Both Drugs Education and dealing with Drugs Incidents will also have reference to the law governing such matters, and the school will seek to act in ways which are in keeping with the Cumbria LA, and Department for Education guidelines and regulations.

In brief, Trinity School will seek to educate our students so that they have enough information to avoid drug misuse, and to lead healthy lives. If there is an incident involving drug misuse in school, the Senior Leadership Team must be involved, as the matter is a very serious one, and a permanent exclusion for the student involved is the most likely outcome. The school will seek to preserve the taboo that there should be no illegal drugs on school premises or related activities at any time.

- 2 The purposes of this policy are as follows:
 - to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
 - to reinforce and to safeguard the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff and others who use the school;
 - to clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents and carers, external agencies, and the wider community;
 - to give guidance to the staff who develop, implement and monitor the Drugs education programme of the school;
 - to enable staff to manage any incidents involving drugs that occur on school premises, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of all involved;
 - to ensure that the response to such incidents fits into the overall approach to drugs education, to other policies of the school (such as Exclusion) and to the values and ethos of the school;
 - to provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school's approach to drugs education, and of the management of incidents involving drugs;
 - to reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies to reduce the misuse of drugs among young people.
- 3 Key aspects of our work are:
 - dignity and respect for oneself;
 - respect for and consideration of others;
 - understanding of the law;
 - making healthy and informed choices.

We seek to reduce the demand for and the harm caused by the misuse of drugs and other substances. We seek to raise the self-esteem of our students, and

to enable them to make healthy and right choices for themselves, based on good information.

- 4 Informal discussion and guidance about good and safe attitudes to drugs may occur in any lesson, but will always:
- assume that the right response is to 'say no' to drug misuse;
 - not encourage or confirm any ideas about the 'acceptability' of any drugs.

This forms part of the Staff Handbook and the Induction Pack to ensure consistency.

- 5 When dealing with 'drugs' in this context, the main referents are the illegal substances, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine etc, within all classes of such illegal substances. However, we also take seriously the issues of alcohol abuse, and of dependency on nicotine from cigarettes, and other abuses of substances, as similarly harmful to the individual and to the wider community.

In the policy, 'drugs', as a term, does **not** include medicines, which are allowed in school under controlled conditions through the school medical unit. These are governed by the school's procedure on medicines in school.

- 6 There are clear links and consistencies between the Drugs policy and other school's policies: on Behaviour and expectations; on Exclusions; on Healthy Schools; on Child Protection; on Educational Visits.

- 7 This policy applies to the whole of the Trinity School site, its buildings and grounds, and to all students and staff, parents/carers and visitors, as appropriate to their behaviour and needs. It also covers all involved in school trips and visits, however short, and to students of the school who are receiving part of their education offsite in another institution or provider.

Section A Drugs Education

The aim of our Drugs Education programme will be to provide students with information about the types of drugs and their effects, and the social and health issues involved, so that they choose not to be involved in any way with substance abuse. It will be part of the school's work to encourage healthy living and safe life choices for our students.

The Scheme of Work for Drugs Education is part of the Personal Development 'Freeze Day' Programme for each year group, and can be viewed in school. Coverage of Drugs Education in school also comes through a range of curriculum subjects and across the key stages.

The range of taught Drugs Education activities will recognise that students can be influenced by many sources, and that these will not offer them balanced or accurate views. These include television, films, newspapers and magazines, pop music, and their peers. The programme will seek to correct, wherever possible, unhelpful or false ideas that may be current from such sources.

All teachers may be asked to cover some elements of Drugs Education, where this can be undertaken from their general professional training – such as social issues involved with smoking and alcohol. Within the specialist teaching of science, the physiological and other effects of drugs will be taught. Other specialist input will be brought into the school to cover the specifics of drugs and their misuse, such as the police, & health care professionals.

Through a programme of Induction, and continuing professional development, all staff are to be made aware of the school's Drugs Policy, and other related policies, as well as issues concerning drugs and their background in our local community.

Outside expertise may be sought in several areas, such as our Community Liaison Police Officer(s), but all those involved in the series of activities need to follow the general aims and guidelines of this policy, and to work in this context. Their working with our students should be approved by the Deputy Head, or by a Co-Headteacher, and a check will be made to ensure that they are cleared to work with young people in this way. A member of the staff of the school should always be present when an outside professional is leading a group.

Members of the staff of the school should not provide completely confidential advice or guidance to individual students. Students will be encouraged to talk to their parents/carers about personal issues that are raised by the Drugs Education programme, or to seek help from their doctor or from the school nurse. All staff are aware through Child Protection procedures of steps they must take to prevent harm.

Key Staff Roles

Should any member of staff become aware of Child Protection issues that are raised through the drugs' education programme, they will follow the procedures in the Staff Handbook, and notify the designated Child Protection Officer. The co-ordination of the school's programmed teaching about Drugs education is the responsibility of the Assistant Head, Teaching and Learning, who oversees the planning of 'Freeze Day' activities. Overall responsibility for all drug issues within the school lies with the Co-Headteachers, or the Deputy Headteacher in their absence.

Section B Drugs Incidents

The school's position on the drugs issue should be made clear to all students: there should be no drugs on the school premises at any time. The same provisions apply to students who are not on the school site, but are involved in a school match, activity, trip or visit, or on a link course at Carlisle College or another school.

The possession, obtaining, use, possession with intent to supply, supply, dealing of illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances are all unacceptable, and would be most likely to result in a permanent exclusion from the school for students. The school would also seek to act to help these students to change their approach to the misuse of drugs in the interests of their better health and wellbeing.

Therefore, making things clear to our students, through assemblies, bulletin notices, the publication of this policy, and through the range of drugs education activities, about the way in which any incidents are dealt with, is important to us as a community.

Procedures

- 1 Any such incident must be dealt with by assigned members of the Senior Leadership Team. They should involve the pastoral staff too, but we should all make sure that there is a very limited circulation of information and identities of students, in the interest of all parties, and to maintain confidentiality.
- 2 This policy will also apply to any incident of drugs on school trips, and also to Trinity School students out of hours, off site and out of uniform, on link courses in Carlisle college or in other schools – whenever the student is engaged on an activity organised by the school and for which the staff of the school are responsible. It will be the responsibility of the group leader/trip organiser to deal with any incidents which happen off site, but in consultation with the EVC/Emergency contact, and then with the Co-Headteacher(s) or the Deputy Headteacher.
- 3 It is our policy to inform police and parents/carers of any illegal actions, involving the use, or supplying, or obtaining, or dealing in drugs in school. Informing the police is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team and should not usually be done without their involvement. We shall also inform parents/carers, and the police if necessary, of the abuse of other substances, such as alcohol, solvents, and cigarettes, to try to prevent these escalating into worse misuses.

Once police officers arrive in school, they decide what the steps are that need to be taken, while school staff have due regard to issues of confidentiality, the rights of the students and their well-being.

The Police Liaison Officer for the school is David Mattinson
Children & Young Person Constable
North Cumbria Community Safety Unit

T: 101 Option 2 Ext: 40085
M: 07974 751 490
E: david.mattinson@cumbria.police.

- 4 All investigations carried out in must be careful to avoid the pitfalls of leading questions, identifying the names of other students, and so on. They should be undertaken as a matter of first priority, giving the opportunity for locating any substances on the school's premises, and for each student being able to give an independent account of what has happened.
- 5 If there is any concern about the seriousness of particular incidents, in our professional judgement, then we should inform the police as soon as possible, and act upon their advice and guidance. We should not undertake any investigation, which might interfere with or harm a subsequent criminal investigation.
- 6 We will work with the Youth Offending team, and other agencies where appropriate, to provide specialist education and counselling to students involved with a drugs related incident. The well-being of students involved is very important, as we look into their physical state, self-esteem, and so on. The actions of the school in care should be focussed on this as well as upon the disciplinary matter, as every such incident is a very serious breach of the school code of conduct.
- 7 Searches – the school does not support general or random searches, but would support and require the search of an individual bag or belongings, and of school property if there were specific reason for doing so. The police would be informed and involved. There should always be two members of staff involved in such a process.
- 8 If drugs or drug paraphernalia are found in school, they should be treated with utmost care, especially if there are syringes discovered. If the objects are safe to handle, then the member of staff should take them to a member of the Senior Leadership Team straightaway, and through them the police will be informed.

If there are unsafe objects, such as syringes, then these should **not** be touched until a member of staff, usually of the site team, can be called to handle and dispose of the items safely, using gloves and proper equipment. A member of staff should stand next to the article(s) protecting students from them until the site staff arrive. Site staff should treat such a call from another member of staff as an instant priority. The Senior Leadership Team must, likewise, be informed of any such occurrence, and will respond at once.

- 9 If a student is discovered apparently under the influence of drugs or alcohol or other substance, then the first priority is the health and well-being of that student. A member of the Senior Leadership Team and the designated medical supervisor should be involved as soon as possible. Establishing the involvement of other students and the whereabouts of the substance should then be done as quickly as possible.

If an adult is discovered on the premises, to be under the influence of alcohol or other substance, then the same procedure applies: contact a member of the Senior Leadership Team straightaway, so that the safety and wellbeing of all the school community can be maintained. The school's advice is that other members of staff should have due regard for their own safety, and not try to deal with an adult who is under the influence of a substance. The police will be involved by the Senior Leadership Team as quickly as possible.

If there is a serious risk of imminent danger, then a 999 call should be made by a Co-Headteacher or Deputy Head. Other staff should only make a 999 call in the most extreme circumstances. However, the school would always support any member of staff who took this action, convinced of its need for the sake of the wellbeing of students or colleagues.

Outcomes

The most likely outcome of having or using illegal drugs, Classes A-C, in school or on a school activity is permanent exclusion. The school would also seek to ensure the right care and treatment for the student concerned. However, such an important taboo would have been broken, it would therefore not be possible for the student to remain part of the school's community.

Where alcohol, or volatile substances, or repeated use of cigarettes, was the issue, then a fixed term exclusion would be the most likely response, with attendant health care and treatment also being offered to & expected of the student involved, usually via appropriately trained staff members or through the family GP.

Liaison

Working with the families of the students, with the police, with health care professionals and other agencies is central to the actions that the school takes. Designated pastoral staff are responsible for liaison with outside health care and other professionals. The Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for Behaviour and Welfare (11-16) and the Assistant Headteacher – Sixth Form are responsible for liaison with the Police and with Social Services.

The Co-Headteacher(s) are responsible through the Carlisle Secondary Learning Consortium, for liaison with other local schools in collaborating on the content of Drugs Education in school; in any joint management of incidents involving students from more than one school; in seeking consistency between schools in dealing with incidents; in working together with each other and with the LA on professional development opportunities, and in managing the transition of students between schools at 11 or 16, or in mid-year transfers.

Useful addresses and contacts for help and advice both locally and nationally

FRANK can give you information and support on any issue to do with drugs.

Talk to FRANK: Tel: 0300 123 6600

SMS FRANK if you are hard of hearing: 82111

Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Alateen support groups are for teenagers who're affected by someone else's drinking – usually a parent. Tel: 020 7593 2070 Website: <http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk/public/what-alateen>

Childline is for children and young people, who are in any kind of trouble or danger. Tel: 0800 11 11 11 Website: www.childline.org.uk

Inspira (formerly Connexions Cumbria) provides confidential advice for everyone aged between 13 and 19 on issues ranging from families to health, jobs and relationships.

Website: www.inspira.org.uk/

28 Lowther Street

Carlisle

Cumbria

CA3 8DH

Tel: **01228 596272** Fax: **01228 64096**

National Treatment Agency

8th Floor, Hercules House Hercules Road London SE1 7DU

Tel: 020 36820503 enquiries@phe.gov.uk

CADAS

17a West Tower St, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 8QT

Tel: 01228 544140 email: info@cadass.co.uk

Cumberland Infirmary, Carlisle North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust

Cumberland Infirmary, Newtown Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA2 7HY

Telephone 01228 523444

Children's Services

Cumbria House, 117 Botchergate, Carlisle, CA1 1RD

Telephone: 01228 226633 email: cafcebs@cumbria.gov.uk