

Drugs Education and Prevention Policy			
Current Status	Operational	Last Review:	January 2023
Responsibility for Review:	Group Head of Welfare and Safeguarding	Next Review:	July 2024
Approved by:	ECG	Originated:	November 2020

1. General

- 1.1. In order to promote the wellbeing of students across Eastern Colleges Group, this policy is in place to prevent drugs misuse. In line with the DfE and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) [drug advice for schools \(2012\)](#) we have the information, advice and power to:
- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information.
 - Tackle any drugs related issues and associated problem behaviours with wider powers of search and confiscation.
 - Work with external agencies locally e.g. voluntary groups, health partners, police and others to prevent drug and alcohol misuse.

2. Aim

- 2.1. The policy aims to make clear ECG's approach to the problem of drugs.
- 2.2. It sets out the Local Governing Body's policy of drugs education and makes clear the procedures that should be followed in responding to drug-related incidents.

3. Responsibilities

3.1. The Principal / Head of Centre

- 3.1.1. The Principal / Head of Centre has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy, for liaison with Local Governing Body (LGB) and parents, and external agencies as appropriate and for the training and support staff.
- 3.1.2. The Principal / Head of Centre must ensure that all students are aware of the policy and its implications.

3.2. All Staff

- 3.2.1. All members of staff must know the College's policy and to seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support the policy.

4. Definitions

- 4.1. Legal drugs that may be on site:

- Prescribed drugs

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- Over the counter drugs

4.2. Legal drugs that should never be in college include ones such as:

- Alcohol
- Legal Highs

4.3. Illegal drugs which must never be in college include the following common ones:

- Cannabis
- Ecstasy
- Heroin
- Crack/cocaine
- NPS (new psychoactive substances)

5. Drugs Education

5.1. The Pastoral Care Manager, will ensure that there is planned drugs education programme as part of the Tutorial programme

5.2. The programme must:

- a) Inform students about drugs and their effects
- b) Promote a positive attitude towards healthy lifestyle
- c) Increase student's understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs
- d) Inform students about course of action open to them if they or people they know become, or might become, involved in drugs activity
- e) Inform students about support and resources available at Abbeygate and other external agencies
- f) Involve external organisations in the delivery of information where necessary and when in the best interests of the students

6. Action to be taken in incidents involving misuse of drugs

6.1. It is vitally important that staff, students and parents should be clear about the action that will be taken in any drug related incident.

6.2. Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs, or suspected misuse, are reported to the Student Welfare Manager / Senior Welfare Officer or Pastoral Care Manager who will inform the Senior DSL as appropriate.

7. Searching students

7.1. Authorised staff (authorised by the Senior DSL) have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons

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- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student).

- 7.2. If a student is suspected of carrying an illegal substance, the student will be asked to show a member of staff the contents of his/her pockets/bag etc. If the student refuses, they will be kept in isolation whilst the police are called out to carry out a search. Parents will also be informed.
- 7.3. The 'search' will **always** be undertaken by an appropriate member of staff with a witness present. You must be the same sex as the student being searched; and there must be a witness (also a staff member) and, if possible, they should be the same sex as the student being searched. **There is a limited exception to this rule**, see 7.4.
- 7.4. Staff can carry out a search of a student of the opposite sex to you and / or without a witness present, but only where you reasonably believe that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if you do not conduct the search immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.
- 7.5. We may engage external organisations to conduct 'drugs dog' searches as part of an overall strategy to tackle drug use and promote a positive and open culture of zero tolerance for drugs

8. Responses

- 8.1. Students found under the influence of an illegal substance, or in possession of illegal items will be suspended without prejudice, A disciplinary meeting will be called roughly a week after suspension and parents will be invited to the meeting for under 18s. The college will consider each drug incident separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case and the need to balance the interests of the student, other members of the college and the wider community. However, in most cases this will be a final written warning.

8.2. Supply

- 8.2.1. A student who supplies any illegal drugs on the premises will normally be permanently excluded for a first offence. 'Supply' includes retailing drugs on the premises, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of another student of the college, introducing fellow students to a drug dealer and any other instances of procuring legal or illegal drug for him/herself or other students.
- a) 'Supply' includes supplying for money or free-of-charge.
 - b) In the case of the supply of a drug or solvent which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Senior DSL will assess the seriousness of the incident

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before deciding on the action to be taken, this may include permanent or fixed term exclusion.

- c) Before making a decision on exclusion the Senior DSL will ensure that a satisfactory investigation has been carried out. Appeals against decisions will go to the Principal.

8.3. Possession

- 8.3.1. A student who has any legal or illegal drug in his/her possession will normally be excluded for a fixed period to be determined by the disciplinary policy after considering all the circumstances of the case. The police will be notified and may be called to attend the college depending on how much is found.
- 8.3.2. The Senior Welfare Officer will determine what support needs to be provided and/or other action that needs to be taken during or after the exclusion. EG DUST assessment and referral to Turning Point.

9. Offenses Outside College

- 9.1. If a student is involved in a drug-related incident outside college the Senior DSL along with the appropriate member of the Welfare Team will assess the implications for the student and determine the best course of action bearing in mind the interests of the student and the interests of the college and wider community.

10. Telling parents and dealing with complaints

- 10.1. We are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their son/daughter.
- 10.2. Drug searches will be recorded on intuition.
- 10.3. We will inform the individual student's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found if the student is under 18.
- 10.4. Complaints about screening or searching should be dealt with through the normal college complaints procedure.

11. Involvement of the Police

- 11.1. Police will be informed via the intelligence line of all drug issues within College.

1. Revision History – Drugs Education and Prevention Policy

Revision date	Reason for revision	on number	Changes made
January 2022	Change of staff	5.1 , 5.2, 6.2	Change of title of manager and addition of welfare officer post
December 2202	Change of staff, titles and processes	All	To suspend students, to provide intel to the police, changes of titles.

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January 2023	To become ECG policy now that search criteria has changed	Full rewrite as needed	Full rewrite as needed
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