

# Drug Policy

## **Rationale**

Vibrance aims to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects but also that every drug has the potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. To be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, and their uses and effects.

## **Aims:**

- To support the provision's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the provision community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug-related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole provision approach to drug education in the context of the provision curriculum

## **Key roles and responsibilities**

The managers and staff are responsible for drug-related issues within the provision.

## **Inclusive definition of drugs**

Vibrance defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

## **Drug Education**

- **Context-** We will provide all pupils with drug education as part of our Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme.
- **Ethos-** drug education in our provision aims to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use, and developing and practising decision-making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and appropriate to the age and experience of our students.
- **Content and delivery-** will be based on the understanding that various approaches should be used to meet students' differing needs and learning styles. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge, and values.
- **Use of visitors and outside speakers-** We use visitors to support our planned teacher-led education programme, which aligns with national and local guidance. We are careful to negotiate the use of visitors in line with the protocol for using visitors in Provision so that their contribution fits our needs

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and they are clear on how their input fits into our planned programme. The tutor is always present when visitors are working with our students.

### **Managing drug-related incidents: routine arrangements**

- **Medicines-** The provision has a policy/procedure for administering medications that must be followed for everyone's safety.
- **Alcohol-** Students are not allowed to bring alcohol into the facility. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole facility.
- **Tobacco-** Vibrance's buildings strictly do not allow smoking, including provision vehicles, at all times.
- **Solvents-** The provision will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if they need to come into contact with them during their work. Students are not permitted to possess solvent-based products.
- **Illegal drugs-** No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to or used on provision premises.

### **Incidents**

A drug-related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs or related paraphernalia on provision premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on provision premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on provision premises
- Supply of drugs on provision premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use

### **Guiding principles**

- A designated staff member is responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support, and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and be reported to the management.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion and searching.
- The provision will always seek to respond appropriately to each case by selecting the most appropriate response from a range of possible responses.

### **Procedures**

- **Medical emergencies** - If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought, and first aid given if required. The priority will be the student's safety.

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- **Individuals in possession of drugs-** If any student or adult on provision premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the provision can contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of, it will be handed to the police immediately and not stored for any longer than necessary. Students will be sent home, and an integration meeting will occur before the student is allowed back on site.
- **Support for students-** Following actions to preserve immediate safety, students' health and emotional needs will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be regarded as if the provision feels a student is showing signs that indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.
- **Recording-** All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely on LearnTrek.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. Suppose a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation. In that case, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no severe harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff are committed to informing the student before disclosing information to others and, if possible, enabling the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protecting a student's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures, staff need to define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered carefully.

### **Staff training and support**

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the drug education programme and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. Management will organise training related to staff's identified needs as required.