

# Drugs and Alcohol Awareness Policy

## Purpose

### Policy Review

The responsibility of reviewing and maintaining this policy is Craig Dembicki (Managing Director). This policy will be reviewed annually.

Start date of policy: **11<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

Last review date: **2nd August 2021**

Date of next review: **1st August 2022**

Signed

Date: 2nd August 2021



Education 1<sup>st</sup> aims to raise students' understanding and knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs. We aim to ensure that students are aware of the difference between safe, legal and illegal drugs including the use and misuse, and how to avoid dangers. We will also provide our young people with relevant information regarding what help is available to them if they do become involved or encounter substance misuse in their lives.

### **Aims**

- Enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge and challenging misinformed and dangerous attitudes
- Increase understanding of the consequences of substance use and misuse
- Identify the risks that users face including HIV infection, social promiscuity, cancer and other serious health issues
- Identify support options available for users and their families
- Promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle

Ensuring student awareness of smoking, drugs and alcohol is done primarily through Project Based Learning, PSHE topics and mentoring. Education 1<sup>st</sup> shares concerns in regard to the use and misuse of substances of all varieties by the young people in our care. Concerns will be raised with other professionals as appropriate.

### **Provision highlights:**

#### **Attitudes and Values**

- To examine own opinions and values, and those of others
- To promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self safe
- To enhance self awareness and self esteem
- To value and respect self and others
- To value diversity and difference within society
- To promote a sense of responsibility and awareness towards the use of drugs, alcohol and the dangers these impose

#### **Personal and Social Skills**

- To identify risks to health
- To communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- To learn how to give and secure help
- To develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug and alcohol use
- To develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- To be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media
- To make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- To be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- To develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

#### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- To develop an understanding of drugs and alcohol and of the effects and risks of using substances
- To gain an understanding of how the body functions
- To gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use
- To gain an understanding of the role of drugs and alcohol in society and the laws and rules relating to their use
- To gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have any worries or concerns relating to themselves or others

and an understanding of confidentiality

- To gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change

### **Drug related situations**

A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

Education 1st does not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs or alcohol in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

### **The following will guide staff response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse:**

- Immediately inform the DSL– who will guide the investigation, ensure a written record is made and decide about any disposal or further searching. Every concern will be investigated and recorded in an incident form, and if necessary a child protection form.
- Consider responses. We reserve the right to contact parents and/or inform the police if this is in the best interests of the child and if doing so will ensure their safety and well being.
- A member of management will decide on appropriate sanctions in line with our Attitude to Learning Policy, this may involve exclusion. Sanctions may be accompanied by referral to other services for advice and support
- Should the student be found in possession of a classified illegal substance, a senior staff member will seek to take immediate possession of the item. As stated in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the substance will be immediately disposed of or handed over to the police if it is believed to be an illegal item. If necessary, a student will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. **A personal search can only be carried out by a Police Officer or Parent / Carer.**
- Any student thought to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to attend provision and may be excluded. The incident will be fully investigated and recorded by a senior member of staff, including a review of the individual student risk assessment.
- Any student thought to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst in our care will be sent home and may be excluded. The incident will be fully investigated and recorded by a senior member of staff, including a review of the individual student risk assessment.