

QUEENSBERRY

ALTERNATIVE

PROVISION



DRUGS POLICY

Written by: NM
Reviewed by: PC
Last review: June 2019
Next review: June 2021

Description of the Provision

Queensberry AP is a specialist provision for students who are disengaged within mainstream school and are therefore at risk of being permanently excluded. It also works with students on educating them about criminal exploitation – with a particular focus on knife crime.

Policy Formulation

This policy was written by Nic Martin and has been agreed by Paul Cooper.

Aims

The drug education within Queensberry AP aims to provide opportunities for students to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and become informed and active citizens. The work aims to be delivered in an accepting and honest way which enables young people whatever their background or experience, to contribute. For the purposes of this policy, and in line with local issues (2015) where we use the term drug we define this as ‘A medicine or other substance which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body’. In this policy we also therefore refer to legal highs and psycho active substances when using the term, ‘drugs’.

Objectives

- To develop student’s confidence and self esteem
- To develop student’s knowledge about healthier and safer lifestyles in order that they are able to make informed decisions
- To develop student’s knowledge and understanding about the services that are available
- To enable young people to develop the skills necessary to protect themselves from unwanted pressure and influences
- To enable young people to develop the ability to understand the consequences of their decisions and actions
- To ensure that young people know and understand the basic facts and laws, including school rules about legal, illegal and illicit substances
- To enable young people to assess risks and how to make safer choices

Moral and Values Framework

The drug education programme reflects our ethos and demonstrates and encourages the following values:

- Respect for self and others

- Respect for difference
- Responsibility for their own actions
- Responsibility for their family, friends and wider community
- The rights of the individual
- Equality

Delivery

The drug education programme is delivered as part of our core curriculum. Trained professionals from outside the AP may also deliver sessions from time to time e.g. school nurse, professionals from drug agencies, police etc.

The work in this area of the curriculum should be delivered within the objectives stated above and delivered through inter-active methods e.g. group work, role-play and discussions. There will be opportunities to gain some external accreditation

Young people are consulted before the programme begins in order to ascertain their needs and they will be involved in evaluating the overall programme.

Resources used are reviewed in line with the LEA guidelines which are contained in 'Guidance for Schools on Drug Education' and 'Managing Drug Related Incidents'.

Working with Parents

Queensberry AP is committed to working with parents as part of its core values. Drug education materials will be available to parents who wish to supplement our programme. We will support parents through training and support when required. There will be a drugs training session offered to parents/carers as part of our offer

Confidentiality

It is the responsibility of Queensberry AP to support young people but no individual should guarantee a child absolute confidentiality.

Young people should be made aware that 'confidences' may be shared among the staff of the school if that is seen to be beneficial for the young person's wellbeing and/or the teacher's ability to deal with the issue. Young people should be made aware that under the Children Act 1989, adults 'may do what is reasonable in all the circumstances of the case for the purpose of safeguarding or promoting the child's welfare'.

Answering Difficult Questions

We will establish with the young people, a set of ground rules so that they are aware of the parameters. For example:

- If a question is too personal, remind the young person about the ground rules.

- If the young person needs further support, refer them to the mainstream school nurse, helpline or an outside agency or service.
- If a question is felt to be too explicit, acknowledge it and meet with the young person later.
- If the answer to a question is not known – say so. The class can research the information together.
- Any concern about abuse should be followed up under the child protection procedures

Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation

The content and delivery of the drug education programme is the responsibility of the Designated Safeguarding Leads. This will inform any further policy development. Parents will be informed about what is delivered at Queensberry AP.

Procedure for Suspected Drug Use

Queensberry AP aims to educate students regarding drug use. However we operate a zero tolerance policy to drugs.

Staff need to report suspected drug use to Designated Safeguarding Leads and or senior members of staff.

If a student is suspected to have drugs in their possession Queensberry AP have the right to search a student. If drugs are found on the student it will be confiscated straight away and the police will be contacted.

If a student arrives to Queensberry AP under the influence of drugs they will be sent straight home, where appropriate, if required this will be under supervision and their parents informed.

Queensberry AP has the right to call in the Police and sniffer dogs if they feel that students are in possession of drugs on our site.

All drug related incidents will be recorded in the safeguarding files and any external agencies involved with the student will be informed; additional support may be sought.