

5. DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

(Reviewed July 2014)

Trinity is a Catholic Voluntary Aided Comprehensive School which comes under the diocese of Brentwood Education Department and under Redbridge local authority. The criteria for entry are based on the Catholicity of applicants and their parents without regard to academic ability. The vision of the school reflects a strong Catholic ethos at the very core of all its work. The school sees as its aim the education of the whole person to reflect the life and teaching of Christ in his church. This document must therefore be seen as part of the School's policy and curriculum for personal and religious education and viewed alongside the other existing policies that appear in the Teachers' Handbook.

The policy on Relationship and Sex Education states that the aim is to 'help our students to have a properly formed conscience, to enable them to make right judgments and to take the right actions in the many and varied situations in which they find themselves'. In accordance with the Catholic ethos of the school, anything which devalues a person and stops him/her attaining their full potential is seen as harmful, and the abuse of drugs (both legal and illegal) falls into this category.

The educational aims of the drugs education programme at Trinity are as follows:-

To elicit students' current knowledge, thoughts, feelings, concerns and needs, so that education starts from where the young people are.

To provide young people with information, which is accurate, comprehensive and unbiased.

To raise the young people's self-esteem, so that young people are less likely to become influenced by a 'drug culture' or to become dependent upon drugs.

To use a variety of active learning techniques which give the young people responsibility for their own learning.

To attend to Catholic attitudes and values, and to develop appropriate skills by which young people might resist harmful peer influence.

The drugs education programme at Trinity spans all years from Yr 7 to Yr 13. The programme is continually evaluated and updated so as to best serve the aims listed above. However, this is the current overview of the programme.

KS3

In addition to the input from the Science department, Drugline, a drugs prevention group, delivers an input to Year 7, 8 & 9 classes. This has received very positive feedback from students and it is planned that Drugline's input will be continue in subsequent years.

KS4

Again in addition to the input through Science, there is four week module in Y11 on the dangers of legal and illegal drugs as part of the Healthy Choices module.

Drugline are a part of future planning.

Dealing with drug related incidents. In order to support our aims and objectives, members of staff might need to take action with regard to drug related incidents. Essentially there are five situations in which a drug related incident will come to light and need a response.

Emergency This situation is where a person has lost consciousness as a result of drug use, or has gone into a coma through overdosing:-

- a. Summon staff with first aid qualification
- b. Do not panic or leave the person alone. Send for/inform

Director of Site

- c. Place the person in the recovery position
- d. Telephone 999 and ask for an ambulance
- e. Telephone parents

f. The person's friend should be questioned to determine which substance has been used. Evidence should be gathered as they help hospital staff identify what substance has been consumed. Sample of vomited material may also be needed.

Intoxication. It is difficult to talk to a person who is intoxicated or 'high' and in such a situation it is important to keep the person under observation so they do not wander off and get into a dangerous situation. If a person is intoxicated but conscience do the following:-

- a. Sit them down in a quiet room or area
- b. Ensure good ventilation - open a window
- c. Remain calm, do not shout or issue threats. Inform Director of

Site

- d. Help calm them down if they are distressed
- e. Administer first aid if necessary and if competent to do so
- f. Call for help

g. Director of site will decide on course of action with reference to contacting parents/guardian

Discovery/Observation. Inform Director of Site

Disclosure. Inform Director of Site

Suspicion/rumour. Inform Director of Site.

In all aspects of Drug education, it is important to remember that young people are influenced by example. Class discussion on sensitive issues should start with a group contract which states clearly that there is no guarantee of confidentiality. This relates to revelations of under age drinking as well as to drug taking. Where possible students should not see teachers smoke. Also any reference to incidents of excessive drinking by a teacher is inappropriate in a classroom, and should be avoided at all costs. On no account should a teacher take on counselling a student on a one to one basis. The two on site counsellors are best qualified to do this and students can be referred to them at any time. The Director of Site must also be informed.