



Beauchamp College  
Drug Education Policy

2017-19

Date	Detail
2015	Original, based on Beauchamp College Policy
Mar 2017	Reviewed
Approved by	Chris Swan, Chair of Governors

## **Background Information**

Beauchamp College is situated south of the City of Leicester in Oadby. The College provides education and amenities for adults of all ages and pre-school children in addition to the full curriculum for 14 - 19 year old students. The student roll is approximately 2200. The catchment area is wide and diverse, as also is the religious and ethnic backgrounds of the students and staff, and the intake is of mixed ability including a number of students with the protection of a statement of special educational needs.

## **Policy Statement for Drug Education**

In recent years there has been an increase in some drug use in society. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enables students to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance. The ability to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of drugs should be part of a broad and balanced health education curriculum.

## **Rationale**

Beauchamp College is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.

The college will not tolerate the misuse of legal substances and/or drugs nor the use of illegal substances by members of the college, nor the illegal supply of them. The college has a no smoking policy for staff and students

The college acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people through the general ethos of the college and will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.

## **Drug Education Programme**

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, the college believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

Health education is an important part of the college's Citizenship provision, delivered largely through the taught RE and Science curriculum and also in tutor time, Life in and after Beauchamp sessions (LaB) and assembly programmes.

Specific aims of the policy with relation to drug education are:

- to provide accurate information
- to promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- to enable students to make informed choices and reduce risks.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- to understand strategies to deal with a 'drug offer' situation.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

## Communication and Partnership

Fundamental to our college's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times.

We believe that when teachers have any evidence or strong suspicions about a young person's involvement with drugs, then the college has a responsibility to communicate our concerns to parents and offer guidance.

We hope parents will respond positively to our comments. Equally we hope parents will feel able to let us know of things going on outside school because effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

## Drug Related Procedures

Where a member of staff encounters a drug related incident their action should be guided by the following:

- Remember that staff looking after students under the age of 16 years are assumed to be acting "in loco parentis", and therefore have a duty to act as responsible and wise parents.
- In any situation the well being of students is paramount. Ensure that any (emergency) first aid that is necessary is quickly administered by making contact with the college Health and Wellbeing Officer or other first-aider. Keep any evidence that may assist in identifying substances that may have been consumed (including vomit) and ensure this evidence is made available to health professionals or accompanies the student to hospital.
- Remove any dangerous substance or item in the presence of at least one other member of staff.
- If a student refuses to comply with a search then parents/police will be notified and further repercussions can be expected.
- If students are found in possession of substances suspected of being a controlled drug, the member of staff should remove the substance and in the presence of a witness (any member of staff) lock it away.
- Gather any evidence that is readily available and may not be available later.
- Make a brief written record of the incident and hand this to the member of staff acting as the drug incident liaison officer.
- All drugs related incidents are ultimately under the jurisdiction of the principal, who may delegate required action to a year co-ordinator, vice principal or the college Health and Wellbeing Officer. The following actions will be taken as necessary:
  - interviewing of the students
  - gathering further evidence
  - informing parents
  - informing the police
  - informing the Chair of Governors

Sanctions will normally be necessary.

## Summary of Procedures

In the case of legal drugs, cigarettes and alcohol, the college has for many years followed a clear procedure:

- Persistent smoking offences lead to letters home and internal exclusion.
- Bringing alcohol to college or being under the influence of alcohol could result in exclusion.

- Prescribed medication may be taken at school after the necessary forms have been returned with parental permission. The medication would normally be lodged with the college Health and Wellbeing Officer except for emergency inhalers, insulin pens and Epi-pens. These should be carried securely by the student.

In the case of illegal substances:

- If a student is found in possession of an illegal substance at college they will, in all but exceptional circumstances, be excluded from the college and the police will be informed.
- The college would consider the selling of drugs within the college to be a much more serious offence which would always result in permanent exclusion and police action.
- In both cases parents would be given guidance and the Chair of the Governing body immediately made aware of the situation.
- The Principal would make recommendations to the Governors' Disciplinary committee based upon the individual student's record of conduct and the severity of the offence. Should the student be readmitted, he or she would be required to receive the relevant counselling.

In drawing up the policy the college has taken account of:

- the guidance issued by the department of Education in Circular 4/95 "Drug Prevention and Schools" .the guidance issued by the Department of Education in "Drugs Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools"
- the LA's policy statement for drugs education
- the policy guidelines issued by the LA in Advice on Drugs Education and Handling of drugs related incidents"

**All drug related incidents will be directed through the relevant staff in the Student Support Centre to include the Vice Principal/Principal.**

**The Substances Co-ordinator at the college is: Linda Birchenough, Health and Wellbeing Officer**