



## **DRUG EDUCATION**

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CONTENT	PAGE
<b>POLICY TITLE</b>	
<b>Aims</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>UCC Drugs Education Programme</b>	<b>3/4</b>
<b>How we handle a drugs related incident</b>	<b>4/5</b>
<b>Where the drug involved is tobacco</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Where the drug involved is a legal high</b>	<b>6</b>

## Aims of the policy

The Drug Education programme is an integral part of the learning process for all students which aims:

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills.
- To foster and develop self-esteem.
- To provide accurate information.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To practise the skills necessary to deal with a drug related situation.
- To widen understanding about health and social issues.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

## UCC Drugs Education Programme

The programme at this College is laid down in schemes of work for the PDE programme and includes:

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

- Information about legal drugs (including prescribed and over the counter medicines) and illegal drugs, their effects and associated health risks.
- Scientific terminology including the following words: use, misuse, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal and adulteration.
- Different categories of drugs – including stimulants, depressants, analgesics and hallucinogens.
- The law relating to drugs.
- The misuse of drugs in sport
- The different levels of intake of alcohol
- Advice and support within the locality, national help lines and organisations.

### **Skills**

- Identifying risks to health
- Communicating with peers, parents and professionals
- Decision-making and assertiveness in situations related to drug misuse.
- Giving and securing help if needed

- Attitudes and beliefs about drugs and drug users among different groups in society
- Impact of the media and advertising on young people's thinking

### **Attitudes**

- Attitudes towards drugs and laws relating to drugs
- Recognition of oneself as a role model and acceptance of responsibility for one's actions
- Taking responsibility for one's own, and other people's safety.

### **Methodology**

Drug education should help students make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle. The teaching methods used therefore are as important as the content of the lesson.

A wide range of teaching methods is used including discussions, role-play, looking at case studies and other active, creative ways of involving students in understanding the issues. In some cases speakers from outside agencies e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous may be used.

Ground rules are established for group activities/discussion when dealing with sensitive issues.

The PDE programme is both progressive and age relevant. The programme is set out as follows:

- Year 7 – Recognising the Risks
- Year 8 – Avoiding Dangers including Peer Pressure
- Year 9 – Knowing what Help and Support is Available
- Year 10 – Making Informed Choices
- Year 11 – Managing Risks including Peer Pressure

## **How we handle a drug-related incident**

Statement of principles on drug use and misuse:

- The College condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The College is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.

- In this College the Principal and Governing Body take the final decision on any response to an incident in close consultation with:
  - Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
  - Progress Leaders and Personal Development Coaches
- In making a decision the College seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, other college members and the local community.

*For the purpose of this section of the policy, the term 'Drugs' is taken to mean alcohol, solvents, nitrates and illegal substances.*

The guidelines will depend on the type of incident. These are to be categorised as follows:

1. Witnessing or hearing reports of suspicious activities.
2. Student caught using suspicious substances
3. Students caught in possession of drugs
4. Students caught dealing drugs
5. Other people on college premises behaving irresponsibly with potentially hazardous substances

### **Guidelines for Category 1**

Where the evidence of drug taking is based on suspicious activities with NO direct evidence the following guidance is recommended:

- Progress Leader will be informed, will investigate the problem, gather information and interview the student. A referral to SLT may be appropriate.
- If there are a health/welfare issue, then this will involve parents and possibly outside agencies.
- The results of the investigation will normally be fed back to the original referring member of staff.
- Information will be logged on CPOMS.

### **Guidelines for Categories 2 –4**

Where possible call for the Duty Officer.

- Remove evidence and ensure that this is handed to a member of SLT. Staff may ask the students to empty their pockets, bags, etc.) **DO NOT DIRECTLY HANDLE SYRINGES.**
- Immediately inform the SLT.
- SLT will isolate and interview student(s) involved.
- Parents will be contacted and police may be informed.
- Parents may be asked to come into the College immediately.
- Students caught in possession of drugs will normally result in a permanent exclusion.

- Students caught dealing or handling quantities of illegal drugs intended for dealing, will be most likely be permanently excluded. In these cases the Police will be informed and involved.
- Information will be logged on CPOMS.

### **Post Incident Procedures**

- External agencies may be called upon to help give advice and guidance to the family/student involved in the incident.

### **Guidelines for Category 5**

This will depend on the circumstances but may include:

- Being asked to leave the site.
- Informing the Police or other outside agencies.
- Informing other institutions.
- Information will be logged on CPOMS.

### **Where the drug involved is tobacco:**

Students who are found to be smoking and/or in possession of cigarettes, other tobacco substances, lighters, matches, etc.:

#### **Guidelines**

Any dangerous substances or smoking materials will be removed from students (see note 'guidance for categories 2-4') a letter sent home to parents and a College detention issued by the member of staff involved. The student's form tutor and Progress Leader will discuss this incident with the student. Parents may collect the substances/materials from the College office. Students may receive an internal exclusion or a fixed term exclusion for smoking offences in school and the surrounding school grounds.

### **Where the substance involved is a 'legal high'**

New psychoactive substances (NPS), often known as 'legal highs' 'illegal legals' or 'illegal highs', are substances designed to produce the same, or similar effects, to drugs such as

cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy, but are structurally different enough to avoid being controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. In some cases, NPS are just as dangerous as controlled drugs. The UK Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect on the 26 May 2016, which banned NPS. This legislation makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import or export (including over the internet) any psychoactive substances.

These substances, if brought into UCC by students will be treated in the same way as other illegal substances identified in this policy.