



Compass Learning Centre

Drugs Education Policy 2023-24

Statutory Policy: NO				
Governors' Committee Responsible:		Teaching & Learning Committee		
Link Governor:		Chair of Committee		
Link SLT:		Deputy Head		
Person Responsible:		Deputy Head		
Date Reviewed:		October 2023		
Next Review Date:		October 2024		
Key Link Policies / Documents: <i>This list is not exhaustive and further policies / documents may also need to be consulted in addition to these dependent on circumstances</i>		Child Protection Policy, Student Behaviour Policy Drugs Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004) Dorset Council Healthworks Drugs Education and Drug Related Incidents Policy Guidelines and Schemes of Work		
Policy Suite:				
HR	Curriculum	Student Behaviour & Welfare	Finance	Premises & Health & Safety
	✓	✓		

Our aim is to help all our learners unlock their potential in life and work

Signed: *Alison Glazier* **Headteacher** **Date:** 01/10/2023

Signed: *Anna* **Link Governor** **Date:** 05/10/2023

COMPASS DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

The Compass teaches students of all years who are referred from the Weymouth, Portland and surrounding areas. In Years 9, 10 and 11 those who attend lessons at the Compass learning centre have Drugs Education as part of their curriculum through lifeskills, keysteps or PSHE lessons.

Drugs Education

It is the intention of Compass to provide safe and secure environments in which the students are encouraged to develop a positive self image and to understand and minimise the risks that drug use can create. The disciplinary codes of each learning centre clearly reflect their rejection of the use, possession of, or trading in drugs and this policy will be clearly communicated to staff and students. Parents will also be made aware of it and will be encouraged to cooperate with Compass for both the education and enforcement of the policy. Students will be encouraged to regard the use of drugs as a sign of more deep seated problems and to examine the way in which they relate to their peers. They will be helped to acquire strategies for the ever present temptation. Staff will be expected to support the policy by being vigilant regarding students' substance abuse and to make appropriate referrals when they are concerned.

Aims and objectives of the Drugs Education Policy

Aim: To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.

Objectives:

- To provide opportunities for students to acquire accurate information about substances.
- To encourage responsible behaviour in relation to substance use and misuse through the development of personal and interpersonal skills.
- To promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, emphasising attitudes and behaviour which contribute to personal, family and community health.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV and mental health.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Moral and Values Framework

Drugs education will be delivered in such a manner as to encourage students to show a due regard for moral considerations, emphasising respect for themselves and others.

- Students should be encouraged to reject drugs because they believe it is the right thing to do, not just because they have been told to say "no".
- Teaching should include information about the physiological and psychological effects of drugs.
- Students should be aware of other social, moral and health issues that may be linked with drug use, not only for themselves but also their family and the wider community.

Content Headings for the programme

Please refer to PSHE Drugs Education SOW for guidance.

Organisation

Drugs education is taught, age appropriately for Years 9, 10 and 11 within the PSHE framework with the emphasis on developing self-esteem and respect for self, peers, family and the wider community.

Compass works closely with other agencies in particular REACH who can be called upon for individual help and advice by students.

Dorset Police are regular visitors to the Compass and address specific issues relating to Drugs and the Law. The Schools safer school team can be asked at any point to support with individual, groups or training for staff where appropriate and relevant.

Compass works towards targets set by the Healthy schools Scheme.

Theatre in education is a much valued resource and provision is made for the visit of Solomon's Associates production and workshop "Gemma's Wardrobe" which focuses on the effects of cannabis and "Last Orders" which deals with alcohol and its effect on sexual relationships.

Most recently Compass has been part of a count wide approach to drugs education involving the use of drugs dogs during the school day.

Confidentiality

As in all work in PSHE, confidentiality and the right to privacy should always be respected wherever possible. This is explained to the students. However, if a teacher believes that a student is at risk, the student should be warned sensitively that such information cannot remain confidential and that the appropriate agencies must be informed.

Working with Parents

This policy is available for inspection by parents. Information regarding Drugs Education will be made available at parents' evenings. The Designated person available for provision of advice to parents is the PSHE Coordinator.

Procedures for responding to Drug Incidents

A copy of the procedures, in the form of a flow diagram, is appended to this policy.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Compass's Child protection Policy, Drugs: Guidance for Schools (DfES 2004) and Dorset Council Healthworks: Drugs Education and Drug Related Incidents: Policy Guidelines and Schemes of Work

Recommendations on Treatment of Drug Related Incidents

Definition: A drug related incident means

- Suspicion/rumour of possession
- Discovery of someone in possession
- Discovery of paraphernalia
- Discovery of substance

Our first priority in all cases must be the health and safety of the student/s concerned and medical help should be sought, if required, and standard First Aid procedure followed. (see attached flow chart for procedures including first aid)

We are not obliged to take action where a student is reported to have used drugs outside of education time or off education premises EXCEPT where there is a Child Protection issue or the life of the student is at risk (should we record the former where we think it amounts to more than bragging to peers/us?)

Whilst each incident in the educational setting should be treated on an individual basis, all should be recorded.

We are not obliged to contact the police with regard to any incident occurring in education time/premises – however, if the police are contacted then parents/carers must also be informed.

Confidentiality to the student cannot be guaranteed and should not be promised.

In general, assuming that the majority of incidences in our case, will involve suspicion/rumour, it is recommended that a first incident for a student/group should result in no police involvement, but that any subsequent incidence will result in more formal measures. Parents however, will be contacted.

Procedure

