



## **DRUGS POLICY**

### **1. Statement of Principles**

Gartree High School believes that a healthy lifestyle should be the entitlement of everyone in the school community, pupils and staff. We are committed to the health and welfare of all our pupils in a safe environment. We acknowledge our shared responsibility with parents and the community for making sure that we play our part in drugs education and substance misuse. To that end: -

- Gartree High School will not tolerate the misuse of legal substances and/or drugs, nor the use of illegal substances by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of them. We shall take appropriate steps to deal with any such incidents which may occur, including informing the police.
- It is our policy to ensure that appropriate communication is an essential part of the procedures we adopt for managing the drugs education programme and for dealing with any drugs-related incident.
- Gartree High School aims to promote the health and safety of all who work in the school community through the curriculum it offers and the procedures governing the conduct of the school.
- We place a high value on Health Education and it forms an important part of our PSHE and Pastoral input.
- Gartree High School is committed to supporting the welfare of the pupils in its care through its formal and informal pastoral structures which place the needs of the individual and the school community at its core.
- Gartree High School believes in the importance of the partnership with parents, the local community and the various specialist agencies in promoting a healthy lifestyle.

### **2. Educational Aims and Objectives**

The school's drugs education programme is part of a whole school approach to the health education of pupils. The overall aim is to give pupils the knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed choices about their health and the use and misuse of drugs, both now and later in life, and to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

Specific aims of the Drugs Education Policy are:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health.
- To enable pupils to make informed choices.
- To seek to reduce risks to young people.
- To help pupils develop decision-making skills which will assist them in dealing with problems and pressures in and out of school.
- To provide up-to-date and accurate information about substances and to increase awareness about the effects of their use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health issues e.g. crime, sex and sexuality, STD's, HIV and AIDS/Hepatitis B and C.
- To define how and what will be taught.
- To detail how drugs related incidents will be handled.
- To identify how pupil support will be provided.
- To define how training and support will be provided to staff.
- To determine what the involvement of other agencies will be.
- To explore ways of involving parents.

### **3. Background to the Policy**

In drawing up the policy the school 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 LEA's Policy Statement for Drugs Education
- the policy guidelines issued by the LEA in "Advice on Drugs Education and Handling of Drugs Related Incidents"
- Department of Education & ACPO drug advice for schools 2012

### **4. Dissemination of the Policy**

All the school's governors and staff have been issued with a copy of the policy. The policy will be available on the school website.

### **5. The School's Drugs Education Programme - Organisation, Content and Methodology**

The school's Drugs Education Programme is co-ordinated by the Co-ordinator of PSHE, and is delivered under the aegis of Personal, Social, Health and Education.

The content of our drugs education programme is consistent with what is recommended through the National Curriculum and the PSHE Association.

Students will learn about different aspects of drugs education at age-appropriate times whilst at Gartree. This will include themes such as (but not necessarily limited to);

- The effects of caffeine and energy drinks
- Socially unacceptable and illegal drugs, including the personal and social consequences and dangers of using them
- Common myths and misconceptions
- Dependencies and addictions
- Promotion of healthy coping mechanisms as opposed to drugs
- How young people can be manipulated into drug offences/handling e.g. county lines
- Impacts on friends and families  
Avenues of support and advice

The programme is provided by staff with the necessary skills using the expertise of outside specialists when appropriate. As with other aspects of the school's health education programme a variety of teaching styles (including discussion, role play, ICT) and a variety of teaching materials are used.

## **6. Dealing with Drugs Related Incidents**

Gartree High School will not tolerate the misuse of legal drugs nor the use of illegal substances by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of them and we shall take appropriate steps to deal with any such incidents which may occur, including informing the police.

The welfare and best interests of the young person will always be taken into account and balanced against the needs of the whole school community in dealing with any drugs related incident.

Drug-related incidents can range from students talking about them with friends, using them in their own time or bringing them onto school site. It may also include those around them, such as family, engaging in these behaviours.

Each case will be assessed on its own particular circumstances and next steps will occur in accordance to our behavior policy and the best interests of all of those affected – this may involve liaison with outside agencies such as the Police, Social Care or drug charities/agencies.

## **7. Directory of Support**

- <https://www.leics.police.uk/countyline/> Leicestershire Police County Lines
- <https://www.talktofrank.com/> Talk To Frank – Honest drug advice
- <https://www.turning-point.co.uk/services/leicestershire> - Turning Point
- <https://www.ukat.co.uk/rehab/drug-alcohol-rehab-leicestershire/> - Drug & Alcohol Addiction Treatment
- <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/drug-addiction-getting-help/> - NHS Support and Information