

Title	DRUG AWARENESS POLICY
Cross References	Internal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 🍑 Confidentiality Policy 🍑 Behaviour Policy
Date	October 2024

Apricot Online is aware of the responsibility to promote a healthy lifestyle among students. Our teaching and ideology on drugs usage forms a part of this.

Underlying Principles

1. Students are equipped to make their own decisions
2. Drugs are discussed in the context of health education
3. Our pastoral system supports students in substance abuse
4. Supplying and dealing in drugs has different implications from using drugs
5. We work closely with the school/commissioning body, the community, relevant support agencies and parents, if appropriate, to support in any way we are able

DRUG PROCEDURES

Drugs are to be regarded as life threatening if used improperly. If any person displays behaviour that could reasonably be considered to be drug induced, even online, the following procedure will be followed:

1. Teacher will inform Apricot office immediately, who will immediately inform the DSL from commissioning body
2. Teacher will contact parent if concerns need immediate action
3. Teacher may contact Emergency services in severe cases if help from other quarters is not forthcoming

INFORMATION ON SUSPECTED DRUG ABUSE

Overheard or Suggestion of Drug Abuse

Where a teacher overhears of drug abuse, they will (if they judge appropriate) refer to Apricot's DSL, who in turn will refer to contact from commissioning body.

CONFIDENTIALITY

If a mentor or teacher hears disclosures of drug abuse, discussions will normally be kept confidential; *i.e.*, remain the property of student and teacher. However, in the event of information being given which could, if not acted upon, be harmful to the student or result in a criminal act, the teacher will inform the student and take appropriate steps.

THE CURRICULUM

We provide a thorough programme of Drug Education taught by specialist PSHE teachers to all year groups (when commissioned for such). The input is appropriate to age and understanding. Students are given factual information, real life choices and situations, such as peer pressure. Advertising and media influences are also explored.

We recognise and welcome the role that the local community can play through expertise, information and support. Whenever possible agencies will be used to support the work in the curriculum and are invited to contribute to both our online lessons and platform.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION

Apricot is committed to the provision of quality training for all staff in all aspects of teaching and pastoral care. We will provide all teachers with information on drugs, abuse and associated issues.

Authorised by: Jodie Phillips, Operations Director

Date: October 2024

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