

# Policy on Substance Use and Misuse (Learners)

*Supportiveness*

### **Our Mission**

Raising Aspirations, Unlocking Potential, Advancing Futures

### **Our Values**

Excellence, Passion, Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation,  
Sustainability, Valuing Others and Supportiveness

### **Sparsholt College Group**

The Sparsholt College Group (the College Group) includes Sparsholt College, Andover College, University Centre Sparsholt, Sparsholt College Services, Westley Enterprises and Andover Town Football Club. College Group policies apply to each part of the group unless specified otherwise.

This the *Policy on Substance Use and Misuse (Learners)* was approved by the Board of Governors in October 2024 and supersedes previous editions.

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## **POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE (LEARNERS)**

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# POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE (LEARNERS)

## 1 Policy Statement

The Sparsholt College Group (the College), which includes University Centre Sparsholt (UCS), recognises its legal obligation to prevent the production, supply and use of drugs and other controlled substances on its property. The College will promote and uphold compliance with the law by its staff, students and on its premises.

The College takes a positive view of its legal and moral responsibility to ensure that our learning community, particularly those under 19, are protected, as far as possible, from the effects of the misuse of drugs and other illegal substances. The College is proactive in educating students of the dangers of the misuse of substances and their harmful effects on the human body, as well as the risks to future career plans.

The College's policy is framed around the following points:

- The misuse of drugs and alcohol by students, staff or visitors, or the illegal supply of these substances on College premises, on College business or to students is forbidden. This includes the misuse of prescribed drugs, alcohol and solvents and all Cannabidiol (CBD) products including vapes and edibles.
- The College may accept use of CBD products that are prescribed by a Medical Professional in the UK. Permission to use prescribed CBD products must be requested, in writing, via the Wellbeing team. Permission must be granted prior to bringing or using the CBD products on campus. No other CBD products are permitted on the College premises.
- The College is committed to the health, safety and welfare of its customers and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The effects of CBD can include drowsiness and fatigue. Given the potential health and safety risks in many of the College's courses, the College consider it is safer to say no to any CBD products unless prescribed as above.
- The College will assess a request by learners to use Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) on a case-by-case basis recognising that its psychoactive nature may pose a risk to health and safety across a range of curriculum areas but that some learners may be prescribed it in the form of medication. All requests should be supplemented by an evaluation and written report from the medical doctor/consultant in charge of the learner's care.
- Learners should refer to the Learners Health & Safety Policy and the Administration of Medicines and Medical Requirements Policy in relation to taking other medications for health conditions which have known side effects which may impact the learners' ability to take part safely in College activities.
- The College acknowledges its role in the welfare of young people and, through the general ethos of the College, will seek to persuade students in need of

support to come forward.

- The College embraces its role in educating young people about the health, social and career hazards of the misuse of substances.

## **2 Where does this policy apply?**

This policy applies to College premises, buildings and grounds, but also to off-site activities such as practicals, work placements and study tours. The College also reserves the right to involve itself in any incidents that involve its students, or which may have implications for the College and those who attend it.

## **3 Misuse of alcohol**

Students under the age of 18 may not purchase, consume or be under the influence of alcohol on the College premises or while involved in any College commitments.

Students aged 18 or over must not be under the influence of alcohol while engaged in learning or practical activities.

At all times students are responsible for their own behaviour, including the level of alcohol consumed. Drunkenness is no excuse for behaviour which breaches the FE Student Code of Conduct or UCS Student Conduct Policy and will be dealt with under the College's conduct and performance procedures.

Students aged 18 or over who supply under 18s with alcohol will be dealt with under the College's conduct and performance procedures.

## **4 What active steps does the College take to prevent the misuse of drugs and other substances, including alcohol?**

Students are made aware of this policy and their responsibilities within it at induction and periodically thereafter.

Academic and support staff are encouraged to be observant and to take appropriate action to uphold this policy. The College employs CCTV at access points and in public areas to monitor security and behaviour on the campus.

The College has student disciplinary processes (the FE Learner Conduct and Performance Policy and the UCS Student Conduct Policy) which will be employed to enforce this policy as required.

To fulfil its legal obligations under the Misuse of Drugs Act, the College maintains active links with the local Police. Involvement in investigations related to Drug misuse, regular visits by Drug Enforcement Officers and the use of Sniffer Dogs in the search for Drugs held on the College campuses are ways in which these links

support this policy.

All Tutors are given specific guidance for assisting them in individual tutorials within the course structure and clear referral paths to the Student Support team are included in staff inductions and tutor briefings.

Students who are required to attend a conduct review for substance misuse will be offered appropriate support and the College has developed resources to be used in conjunction with Learner Conduct and Performance policies to ensure we are educating students on the dangers.

Where the supply of illegal drugs or substances is found to have occurred, this will involve immediate contact with the Police.

## **5 Support for those at risk from misuse of substances**

While recognising its legal obligations under the Misuse of Drugs Act, the College will always endeavour to assist students who are experiencing problems in relation to drugs misuse.

Support within the College is available from:

- The Student Support Team
- The College Nurse
- Tutorial team
- Academic and Non-Academic Staff
- External agencies/support services

## **6 What are the educational aims of the College in relation to drug, alcohol and substance misuse?**

- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practicing skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g., sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These will be addressed through learning activities within the tutorial programme, induction programmes, curriculum activities and health promotion campaigns on campuses.