

Policy Document**Drugs Policy****Aims of the Policy**

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify the schools' role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to students' needs. The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for students, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community. Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and students need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support.

This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school's behaviour policy. This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits and residential.

Definition of Drugs

"Drugs" are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, legal highs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, cocaine, LSD etc.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate in line with the Academy procedures for the administration of medicines.

Drug Education

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

(i) The Science curriculum delivers drugs education:

- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body's natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds should be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions

(ii) Other discretionary topics will be delivered through Citizenship/Personal Development days, through assembly topics and activities in Guidance Time, and will reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills that will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support.

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On the whole, it will be teachers who will teach drug education but, where appropriate, outside visitors may make a contribution. Such visitors should be used in a planned way and their contributions be evaluated. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development. The school actively cooperates with agencies such as the LA, police, health and drug agencies.

School response to cases of drugs misuse

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

It is likely that possession of drugs will result in a fixed term exclusion from school and that the supplying of illegal drugs may result in a permanent exclusion.

- Smoking will be responded to in keeping with the existing Smoke Free Policy. This has been updated to include electronic cigarettes and vaping equipment.
- Alcohol misuse should be dealt with in consultation with the Head of Phase/Deputy Head of Phase and a senior member of staff. Parents are to be informed and the precise nature of the response will depend on the particular circumstances.
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken; parents/carers will be informed by the Head of Phase/Deputy Head of Phase or member of SLT as soon as possible. The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate.
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the Head of Phase/Deputy Head of Phase or a member of SLT, who will inform the parents/carers.
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the Principal in consultation with governors and staff who know the young person well.
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix A: all staff, students, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.
- The governing body will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. Additional support and advice is available from the School Drugs Adviser and LA Communication Officer-Education.

Implementation

- All students will be advised of the policy through assemblies and school notices.
- Support and information will be available and offered through the Health Clinic
- Parents will be notified of the policy.
- All employees will be notified of the policy.
- Students will be educated about and have an opportunity to discuss the risks associated with drugs through Science, Citizenship/Personal Development days and the wider curriculum.

As a matter of course, all staff, parents/carers and pupils are reminded of this policy on an annual basis.