



DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

- ✚ The Academy is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- ✚ The Academy condones neither the misuse of drugs including alcohol nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- ✚ The Academy acknowledges the need to be aware of and sensitive to the fact that some children may be living with drug-using parents / carers.

The Academy believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug use and misuse. The Academy takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education of every student, which underpins our approach to EFL.

Fundamental to our Academy's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents / carers, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the number of young people nationally who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that a larger number of young people choose not to use or misuse substances. We support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse to:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills
- 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
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- provide support and up to date information to parents / carers

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, and through opportunities for extracurricular activities.

The drug education curriculum will be the responsibility of the Learning Leader of the Education for Life faculty and it will be taught by tutors as part of the EFL curriculum based on the DFE guidance.

The curriculum will be assessed and monitored through the ongoing evaluations of the Learning Leader.

Appropriate CPD will be provided.

The resources used will be subject to the checklist contained in CWAC's, 'Guidance for Schools on Drug Education and Managing Drug Related Incidents':

Use of Visitors/Outside Speakers

In dealing with aspects of substance use and misuse it is very important to be aware of both the 'form' and the 'content' of any information being considered by young people. Avoiding inconsistent messages is clearly of concern here not only in relation to inputs from teaching staff and youth workers, but also in considering the possible contribution from occasional visitors and outside speakers. Adults (other than teachers, lecturers and youth workers) can be a useful source of ideas and information for those working with young people.

There may, however, be occasions when the use of an outside speaker may be deemed appropriate as part of a planned programme of work. The Academy will follow the guidance on the use of outside visitors.

- Students are involved in preparatory and follow up work;
- the visitor is clear about the Academy's aims, drug education programme and how their contribution fits;
- the visitor is clear about the Academy's policies regarding confidentiality, disclosure and child protection;
- the visitor is a competent educator/facilitator and is aware of their role and responsibilities;
- the content of the lesson has been negotiated and agreed and is grounded in a student-centered approach.

Pastoral Care and Support for Students at Risk

Appropriate support and counselling should be made available to young people who are drug users/misusers.

Staff should not guarantee confidentiality to a young person disclosing drug use.

Disclosure to Parents and Other Agencies

The Academy will always inform parent/carers, unless there are concerns that a young person may come to harm as a result of the disclosure.

The Academy will inform the police whenever an incident involving illegal substances takes place at the Academy. All incidents of dealing drugs within the Academy must be reported.

Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

The law permits staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting a student from harm and from committing the offence of possession.

Staff must:

- comply with DfE guidance, 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation, January 2018';
- inform the Principal, or Vice Principal immediately;
- the substance found must be recorded and its disposal witnessed by another member of staff;
- know and understand the Academy's procedures for managing drug incidents involving parents on the premises;
- except where there are concerns for the safety of the young person, the Principal or other Senior Leader will inform the parents/carers so that they can work together to support the young person involved.

Issues relating to concerns staff may have about drug-using parents/carers should be notified to the SLT who will decide on the appropriate action.

Discipline

DfE guidance and advice from NAHT advises us that "... schools will want to develop a repertoire of responses, incorporating both sanctions and counselling, reflecting the different kinds of drug related offences, such as possession of an illegal drug, individual use and selling or sharing drugs with other students."

It states that permanent exclusion should be used only "as a last resort when all other reasonable steps have been taken..." Accordingly, this Academy will:

- consider each incident individually;
- consider carefully the implications of any action, particularly the academic and social needs of the young person;
- use a differentiated set of responses.

Approved at Behaviour & Personal Development Committee: 19th November 2019

Ratified at Full Governors Meeting: 25th November 2019

Review Date: Autumn Term 2020

This document is part of the group which include Safeguarding, Child Protection, Behaviour for Learning, Anti-Bullying, Acceptable Use, Online Safety, Exclusions, Policy Statement Additional & Special Education Needs, Use of Images, Student Illness, Accident & First Aid, Use of Force, Recruitment, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions, Single Equality Scheme and Health & Safety Policies.

This document is also part of the group which include the Sex Education Policy.