



SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Effective for employees, students, Directors and volunteers on or after 1 September 2018

Date: 25 August 2018

Date of next Review: September 2019

Substance Abuse Policy

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1) Statutory Duty of School

The Director takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, Law Agencies and appropriate outside agencies. The director will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

2) Definition

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, legal high's and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

The academy believes that the possession and use of drugs in college or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on academy premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

3) Drugs Education

The academy provides a planned drug education in connection with the Burnham-On-Sea police department that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

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

Currently tutors teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute to the teaching. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

4) Implementation

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the academy director. The academy and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to a member of staff the use of or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the director is the appropriate action. The director will then inform the student's parents or carer.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, our academy cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opiates. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold or used on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as any other relevant information, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer.

The governing body will be involved in drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the academy. The academy will consider each substance related incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The academy will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other academy student and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the academy will follow the LA Policy on drug and alcohol misuse as part of its health and safety policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

5) Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The director will keep records of any drug or alcohol misuse and provide an annual report for Governors. This policy will be reviewed annually and its implementation and effectiveness will be assessed. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the academy.

6) Relevant regulation and interrelated policies

DFE/ACPO Drugs Advice for schools

Behaviour Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Safeguarding Policy