



Whitburn Church of England Academy

Drugs Education Policy and Misuse of Drugs Policy

Preface - Vision and values

The Academy Vision and Values can be found here:

<https://www.whitburncofeacademy.org/about-us/academy-vision-and-values/>

This policy and its associated procedures are based on these key principles and values.

Policy

This is a Governing Body Policy, which considers the Directors' legal responsibilities as employers and occupants of the school premises. The policy accords with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and considers guidance in the DfE publication, "Behaviour in schools – Advice for Headteachers and school staff" February 2024. From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives December 2021. The DfE and ACPO guidance on Drug advice for schools has also been used for additional guidance. (Sept 2012).

The Directors are committed to sending a clear message that drug use is unacceptable and to ensuring that Whitburn Church of England Academy is a healthy school, free from the misuse of drugs and other substances. Illegal drugs should never be in school. Legal drugs are only allowed when they are medicines agreed by the Principal for use in school following procedures outlined in the Managing Medication Policy.

Aim

The policy aims to make clear the school's approach to the problem of drugs. It sets out the Governing Body's policy on Drugs Education and makes clear the procedures that should be followed in responding to drug-related incidents.

Responsibilities

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy, for liaison with Governing Body and parents/carers, and external agencies as appropriate, and for the training and support of staff.

The Principal must ensure that all students and staff are aware of the policy and its implications.

The Principal is responsible for liaison with the media when necessary.

The Senior Deputy Headteacher is responsible for quality assuring the work of the RSE/Health Education Co-ordinator in co-ordinating and delivering the academy's drugs education curriculum, to ensure that staff have the relevant skills and to support staff under the Principal's direction, and at the discretion of the Principal, to give advice to students.

Pastoral Staff and AHT Pastoral has responsibility for investigations related to the Misuse of Drugs and Other Substances. AHT Pastoral will report to the Principal who will liaise with the Governing Body. Pastoral staff, AHT Pastoral and the Principal will also liaise with the Police, Matrix and any other relevant outside agencies as required.

Nominated Director

This will be the same Director as the nominated Director for child protection. He/she will liaise with the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral and student welfare) as appropriate, and advise the Chair of Governing Body on any urgent action that needs to be taken with regards to Drugs Education or the misuse of drugs. They will report to the Governing Body at Termly meetings when required, and advise the committee on any action that needs to be taken or referred to the Governing Body, and any sanctions that have had to be applied since the last meeting.

The Nominated Director can also support the Principal's liaison with parents/carers.

Committees of the Governing Body

The Governing Body is kept fully informed of any issues in relation the misuse of drugs by reports to the Termly committee will also consider the operation of the Exclusion Policy as it relates to drug misuse. The committee has the delegated duty to take what action it deems necessary and make a report to the next meeting of the Governing Body.

Chair of Governing Body

The Chair of the Governing Body in consultation with the Principal and nominated Director is empowered to take any necessary urgent action, and to report this to the next meeting of the Governing Body.

All Staff

All members of staff must know the school's policy and seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support the policy.

Definition

The term “drugs” in this policy is with regard to a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by ‘drugs’ we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as:

1. Legal drugs that should not normally be in school include common ones such as:
 - alcohol;
 - tobacco, e-cigarettes, nicopods, vapes and vape liquid;
 - solvents;
 - over the counter drugs: and
 - prescribed drugs (except those agreed by the Principal under the procedures outlined in the Managing Medication Policy)
 - This also includes new psychoactive substances or ‘legal highs’ and these can be described under the three main categories of, “downers” or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.
2. Illegal drugs which must never be in school include the following more commonly identified drugs:
 - cannabis;
 - ecstasy;
 - heroin;
 - crack/cocaine; and
 - LSD.
 - Other drugs such as anabolic steroids, volatile substances (solvents), Ketamine and Khat

Definitions of other key words

Drug use describes any drug taking. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, including through intoxication, breach of the law or school rules, or future health problems

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads to social, psychological, physical or legal problems through intoxication, regular excessive consumption and/or dependence

“Misuse of drugs” is the possession, use or supply of illegal or other unauthorised drugs, including drug paraphernalia, within the school premises or being under the influence of the affects of such drugs whilst on the school premises.

Drug-related incidents could fit into the following categories:

- drugs or associated equipment are found on school grounds
- a student shows, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age
- a student is found in possession of unauthorised drugs or associated equipment

- a student is found to be supplying* an unauthorised substance on school premises (*within the context of the school drug policy, the term ‘supply’ may be used to describe: students sharing drugs; students being coerced to supply drugs; a group of friends taking it in turn to bring drugs in for their own use; or people selling to others).
- a student, parent/carers, or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs on the school premises
- a student is displaying signs of illness or inappropriate behaviour as a result of substance misuse
- a staff member has information that the illegitimate sale/supply of drugs is taking place in the school grounds
- a student discloses that they are misusing drugs or a family member/friend is misusing drugs
- a parent/carers discloses a concern about their child’s drug use

Drugs Education

The Principal will ensure that there is a planned drugs education programme as part of the RSE/Health Education curriculum (and other appropriate areas of the curriculum e.g. Science).

The programme will:

- inform students about drugs and their effects;
- promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle;
- increase students’ understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs;
- inform students about course of action open to them if they or people they know become, or might become, involved in drugs activity; and
- inform students about support and resources available in school and outside school.

This will be co-ordinated by the RSE/Health Education Co-ordinator in consultation with the Senior Deputy Headteacher, relevant staff and outside agencies.

SMT in liaison with Form Tutors, Pastoral Leads and the Inclusion Support Staff will endeavour to identify students who are more vulnerable to drug misuse and ensure these students receive appropriate support through the curriculum, the Inclusion operation and/or referral to other agencies.

Action to be taken in incidents involving misuse of Drugs

It is vitally important that staff, students and parents/carers are aware of the action that will be taken in any drug related incident.

1. Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs, or suspected misuse, are reported to the Principal, another member of the Senior Management Team and Pastoral Leads.
2. After every investigation into any incident involving the misuse of drugs or supplying of drugs on the school's premises parents/carers will be informed, and their co-operation sought.
3. The Academy will consider each drug incident separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the student, other members of the school community and the wider community. However, in all cases where illegal drugs are brought onto school premises, the police will be called.
4. Directors believe it is essential that parents/carers and students are clear about the normal sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows (See also Exclusion Policy):

- a) a student who supplies any drug or attempts to supply any drug (whether legal or illegal, regardless of the seriousness of the use) on the Academy premises will be permanently excluded.

‘Supply’ includes retailing drugs on or off the premises, procuring or attempting to procure legal or illegal drugs on behalf of another student of the school, introducing fellow students to sources of legal or illegal drugs, and any other instance of procuring legal or illegal drugs for him/herself or other students.

‘Supply’ includes supplying for money, free-of-charge or simply the passing on of legal or illegal drugs.

In all cases where the amount of any drug possessed is deemed by the police to be beyond the quantity for personal possession, the Academy will treat this in the same way as intent to supply. The Academy does not need to prove that there was intent to supply.

In the case of the supply of a drug which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Principal will assess the seriousness of the incident before deciding whether to exclude permanently or for a fixed period of suspension.

Before making a decision on exclusion the Principal will ensure that a satisfactory investigation has been carried out.

- b) a student who has any legal or illegal drug in his/her possession will be permanently excluded; to be determined by the Principal after considering all the circumstances of the case.

The Principal will also determine what counselling needs to be provided and/or other action needs to be taken during or after the exclusion.

See the Department's Guidance "Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and student referral units in England".

Where the Principal is contemplating exclusion for a drug-related offence he will consult the Chair of Governing Body, Senior Management team and/or Pastoral Lead, and take any other advice he/she deems appropriate.

- c) A student who is proven to be under the influence of drugs on the school site will be permanently excluded; to be determined by the Principal after considering all circumstances of the case.

The Principal will also determine what counselling needs to be provided and/or other action which needs to be taken during or after the exclusion.

Drug Misuse Outside the School Premises

In line with Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff (September 2022) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Search and confiscation and disposal of Drugs and Drug related paraphernalia

The Principal is responsible for ensuring all staff are aware of the procedures for the confiscation and safe disposal of drugs. See the Academy Searching and Confiscation Policy.

Students can and will be searched if there is suspicion of a prohibited/banned item being in their possession. (see the Academy search and confiscation policy).

The confiscation of drugs or drug paraphernalia should be witnessed by a second member of staff

- Illegal drugs must be stored in a sealed envelope and given to a member of the Senior Management team. They will then be stored under lock and key in the school safe and the police informed to secure their safe removal from the premises.
- Solvents, alcohol, medicines not covered by a care plan and tobacco/E-Cigarettes/vapes and vape liquid will be taken to a member of the Senior Management Team's Office and will not be returned to the student **or** their parent/carer.
- Given the level of danger posed by solvents, Senior Management, will arrange for their safe disposal.
- Needles and syringes found on the premises must be picked up using gloves and stored in a sealed container such as a tin. The Senior Management team or Local Authority Environmental Health Department will arrange for their safe disposal.
- Medicines will be disposed of in line with advice given by the School's Nursing Service.

Involvement of the Police

Although there is no legal duty to inform the police of any drug incident in the school, the Directors' policy is that the Principal will inform the Police and will seek any relevant support and advice.

Where the school suspects that drugs are being supplied on the premises or to students outside of school, all relevant suspicions and information **will** be passed to the police.

The Principal may request police handlers with sniffer dogs to enter the school premises in order to detect illegal drug possession or use only after giving careful consideration to the impact of such an action on individuals and the school community as a whole.

Staff Training

The Principal will ensure that all staff (teaching and support staff) will receive appropriate training in drug education and the handling of incidents that they might come across.

Monitoring and Review

The Governing Body will receive reports on the implementation of the policy as matters arise. The Governing Body will review the policy and will assess its effectiveness and whether any changes are necessary. Any changes will be notified to the staff.

Drugs Policy		
Linked to	• Behaviour Policy • Exclusions Policy • No-Smoking Policy • Health and Safety Policy • Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy • Searching and Confiscation Policy • Managing Medication Policy	
Review Cycle = 3 Yearly		
Creation Date	Version	Status
21 st November 2006	1.0	Approved by the Governing Body
Revision Date		
13 th October 2009	2.0	Approved by the Governing Body
9 th October 2012	3.0	Approved by the Governing Body
1 st July 2014	4.0	Approved by the Governing Body
9 th May 2017	5.0	Approved by the Governing Body
2 nd July 2019	6.0	Approved by the Governing Body
13 th July 2022	7.0	Approved by the Governing Body
11 th July 2023	8.0	Approved by the Governing Body
7 th July 2026	9.0	Approved by the Governing Body