

## **S36 DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

**Approved by Access Committee**  
**Approved by Full Governing Body**  
**Next Review**  
**Responsible:**

**N/A**  
**June 2016**  
**June 2018**  
**Vice Principal –**  
**Pastoral Care & Safeguarding**

### **PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND REVIEW**

In devising this Policy, reference was made to:

- DfES circular 0092/2004 - Drugs: Guidance for Schools
- DFE and ACPO (Association of Police Officers) Drug Advice for Schools (September 2012)
- OFSTED Report findings of January 2006 with regard to Drugs Education
- Ofsted Report (2012) Not Yet Good Enough: personal, social, health and economic education in schools

The Drugs Policy is written in the context of other related policies such as the Medical Treatment of Students Policy, the Child Protection and Training Policy, the Curriculum Policy, the Student Behaviour Policy and the No Smoking Policy. There will be a review of the Policy every two years, designed to take into account any changes to national guidelines and any incidents that have occurred over the previous 24 months relating to the Policy. The academy will record all incidents in accordance with DFE guidelines and use that information to inform any review of the Policy where appropriate.

Within the academy community, the Policy was drawn up by the Principal, The Vice-Principal: Pastoral Care 11-16 and Safeguarding, other members of the Senior Leadership Team and appointed Governors. Consultation took place with the student body through the School Council and through the Student Safeguarding Committee.

### **STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is recognised that a variety of substances, both legal and illegal, are available to young people of school age in society beyond The Bushey Academy. As a result, a pro-active educational approach is required to address this problem, and to ensure that young people are educated about the relevant serious risks to their physical and emotional well-being of the misuse of such substances. All of our students must be taught the knowledge, skills and attitudes to encourage them to make positive healthy life choices, both now and in the future. The academy will ensure that students have access to, and knowledge of, up-to-date information on sources of help.

It is central to the academy's approach that its Drugs Policy is placed within the wider context of personal development and always seeks to balance the rights of the community with those of the individual. As part of our proactive approach, the academy is committed to listening to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns, and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs. The academy may tailor drug education in response to specific student requests, incidents of local drug misuse, media reports, or other identified emerging concerns.

Additionally, the academy will ensure that all staff have access to high quality training and support with regard to drug education.

It is fundamental to the academy's values that the responsibility for the education of students is shared with parents; effective communication and co-operation are therefore essential.

## **DEFINITION OF "DRUGS"**

Drugs are "a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". [United Nations report on Drugs and Crime]

This policy is concerned with:

- All legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, poppers, new psychoactive substances (NPS), volatile substances and solvents (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled);
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines such as paracetamol and other pain killers, as well as other items such as cough medicines and tranquillisers;
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines and items designed to help potential addictions such as nicotine based tablets or patches;
- All illegal drugs referred to as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 – these include, as examples, drugs such as (but not limited to) cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy and heroin;
- Resources and equipment related to the possession and taking of drugs outlined in the previous points;
- The supply, possession and use of these drugs.

## **DEFINITION OF "SUPPLY"**

The word "supply" in this document is the legal term used in the 'Misuse of Drugs Act' (1971 and amended 2004):

"All acts of transfer of drugs from one to another are supply." This definition does not differentiate between supplying / giving to friends or supplying for profit or other material gain.

## **AIMS OF THE DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

- To enable students across all year groups (7-13) to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge and challenging attitudes;
- To provide accurate information about substances and their effects;
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs;
- To minimise the number of students who engage in drug misuse;
- To persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop;

- To widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. crime, HIV-AIDS and the long-term effects of drug use;
- To encourage students to have a positive self-image and an awareness of the support and advice available to them;
- To counter inaccurate messages/myths

The academy is committed to ensuring that all students (and their parents / carers) who have legally prescribed medicine or equipment at the academy are aware of our procedures and comply with them.

No student should be in possession of legally prescribed medication or equipment (except asthma inhalers, epi-pens or anapen auto-injectors for anaphylaxis, or other items where authorisation in advance has been agreed) during the academy day. Drugs that need to be taken during the academy day should be handed in to the Student Support Officer on arrival at the academy and, once authorisation has been obtained from a parent or carer (unless in an emergency – see ‘defence of necessity’) arrangements will be made to ensure students have appropriate access to enable their administration on an individual basis. See Medical Treatment for Students (including treatment of Asthma) Policy for further clarification.

#### **PROCEDURES FOR RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response;
- The Principal, or in his absence a member of the Senior Leadership Team, should be informed immediately of drug possession in the academy;
- The needs of the student and the safety of the whole academy community will be taken into account;
- Parents/carers will be involved early and throughout any investigation;
- External agencies, including the Police and Children’s Services, will be involved if appropriate;
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and support / counselling approach;
- Permanent exclusion will be used in the case of a student supplying illegal drugs in the academy, even in the case of a first offence;
- Permanent exclusion will be used when there is evidence of a student being found in possession of illegal drugs with intent to supply whilst in the academy, even in the case of a first offence;
- Permanent exclusion will be considered, in the context of the specific individual circumstances, where a student has been found to have supplied other drugs (not classified as ‘illegal’) whilst in the academy. Any such decision will take into account particular serious aggravating factors, including where another student has suffered, or was likely to suffer, negative or ill-effects.

- Permanent exclusion will be considered when the academy has evidence that a student has disregarded the academy's policy regarding the taking of illegal substances on more than one occasion;
- Permanent exclusion will be considered when the academy has evidence of the possession of illegal drugs on more than one occasion;
- All students found guilty of breaking academy rules regarding the use of drugs, including those committing a first offence, should expect a serious sanction, including when the academy is in loco parentis. This could include sanctions up to, and including, permanent exclusion;
- The academy reserves the right to take additional action having consulted with other bodies;
- The academy is unable to guarantee confidentiality to any member of the academy community who gives information regarding drug incidents.

### **GUIDELINES FOR DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

***(Taken from Drugs and Drug-Related Incidents – Advice for Local Authorities, Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies from the Department for Education and the Association of Police Officers, 2012)***

#### **Searching and Confiscation**

- *Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.*
- *Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include novel psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.*

#### **Involving parents and dealing with complaints**

- *Schools are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child.*
- *There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search, but is advisable in order to respond to any future complaint by a pupil or parent.*
- *Schools would normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.*
- *Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.*

#### **Working with the Police**

- *A senior member of staff who is responsible for the school's drugs policy should liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents. This approach should be updated as part of a regular review of the policy.*

## **Controlled drugs**

*In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:*

- *ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;*
- *seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;*
- *store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;*
- *notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;*
- *record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;*
- *inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;*
- *identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).*

## **Early Intervention**

- *Schools can have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish those who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs.*

## **COMMUNICATION**

- This Policy is communicated to parents through the home school agreement and is available to parents on request or via the academy website.
- Students are made aware of the Drugs Policy through the PSHCE and subject curriculum, house and other assemblies and through tutor time;
- Drugs Education forms a part of the curriculum as outlined in this policy.