



**SKEGNESS ACADEMY**

**Drugs Policy**

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## Statement of Intent

The Academy aims to:

- safeguard and protect the welfare of pupils.
- fully promote awareness of the danger of drugs.
- manage risks that may have an impact on the Academy community.

The policy will be made available for consultation to parents/carers and staff on the Academy website for a period for two weeks.

### 1. Introduction

This policy covers the use and misuse of all psychoactive substances by pupils. Drugs can be deemed as “a substance that changes the way we feel, think or behave”, as defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The definition of drugs has been adopted in the DfE document *Drugs: Guidance for schools* and include:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, nicotine products, vaping volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites and novel psychoactive substances NPSs.
- all over the counter medicines and prescription medicines that are used for purposes other than their prescribed intention.

The policy, in line with all other Academy rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the Academy boundaries but on all visits, trips and residential visits, including those made outside of normal Academy hours. It will also be applied to the immediate vicinity of each Academy, if appropriate.

This policy is formulated to run alongside and support other policies of the Academy.

### 2. Academy Ethos

The Academy is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel safe and are kept safe. All Academy adults recognise that safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact or responsibility for children or not.

To this end we strive to establish a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances i.e. medicines; tobacco and alcohol) by pupils, staff and visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances, is condoned.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the Academy community and meeting the pastoral needs of its pupils.

In order for parents and pupils to be adequately informed, the Academy pupil planner will outline the Academy guidelines about taking medication.

We, as an Academy, will:

- provide guidelines for drugs education at KS3, KS4 and KS5;
- ensure that pupils are protected from harm;
- ensure that those pupils affected by drugs receive appropriate support;
- develop staff's confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; and
- give clear guidelines to staff about procedures to follow for when such incidences occur.

### **3. Drug Education**

#### **3.1 Aims of drug education:**

- To increase knowledge and understanding, clarifying misconceptions about the long and short term effects of drugs, laws relating to drugs, Academy policy relating to drugs, the impact of drugs on families, communities, personal behaviour and the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers, as well as the moral, social and emotional issues surrounding drugs.
- To develop young people's personal and social skills to make informed decisions to stay safe and nurture a healthy lifestyle.
- To encourage pupils to access the support provided and to devise and develop coping strategies.
- To encourage and enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and users.

#### **3.2 Planned drug education**

The Academy will deliver appropriate drug education to all pupils in all Key Stages, based on identifying the needs and experiences of young people.

We will provide sufficient time during the course of the year: through tutorial time, curriculum time and from outside agencies, to cover the defined outcomes of the drugs education curriculum for young people as laid out by Ofsted and DfE Drugs Advice for Schools 2012:

- At KS3 – focus on alcohol for at least six hours in total with a minimum of twelve hours overall dedicated to drug education.
- At KS4 and KS5 – five hours based on needs.

#### **3.3 Inviting outside agencies**

External agencies may be used to support education programmes but senior teaching staff must be satisfied that the education so provided has a clear structure and aims in keeping with their own planned approach and set learning outcomes for the recipients and that their effectiveness is monitored on an on-going basis using appropriate educational measures.

#### **3.4 Dealing with Drug Related Incidents**

The Academy does not condone or tolerate the possession or supply of controlled drugs on the Academy premises or during any activities undertaken as part of the Academy's provision. This will include a pupil arriving at the Academy under the influence of substances.

Our zero tolerance approach means that we will always intervene swiftly to safeguard pupils when there are professional concerns and after all incidents related to drugs and alcohol. In response to the evidence that planned specialist intervention programmes are very effective in rectifying experimental drug behaviour and getting a young person back on track, we employ highly trained specialists to run early intervention programmes.

Alongside support, we ensure that pupils understand the seriousness of such actions and sanctions are also imposed. We reserve the right to exclude pupils for drug-related incidents but ensure this is combined with effective support and intervention, ideally during the exclusion period. In the case of serious or repeated incidents, and when other avenues have been explored without success, we may move or as a last resort, permanently exclude a pupil.

All incidences will be recorded and the following procedures applied for the following:

- Suspected intoxication, suspected possession of alcohol or drugs and suspected supplying of drugs – in and outside of Academy premises.

Where substances are suspected on a pupil or when a pupil is suspected of intoxication of substance, the Principal/Head of School will be notified and the pupil's family will be informed.

#### Procedure to be followed:

Classroom Teacher or Assistant:

- Establish if the pupil requires medical help.
- Remove pupil from classroom to a suitable room or office.
- Make it clear to them what you are suspicious about.
- Ensure that all immediate medical and safeguarding concerns are addressed.
- Give them the opportunity to talk or give their side of story.
- Make clear the appropriate steps that will now be taken.
- Seek assistance from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or Head of Department via ON CALL.

#### SLT

- Assess the situation, taking into account the knowledge and circumstances of the young person involved.
- Ascertain the presence of illegal substances and act accordingly.
- If any substance(s) are found, to secure substance(s) in a plastic bag. Record date, time and signature of pupil and that of two witnesses.
- Contact police and parent/carer where appropriate.

### **3.5 Searching Young People**

If there is a need to search a pupil, staff should be aware that it is legal for designated staff to search a pupil if they believe they are carrying weapons, drugs or anything that may be considered a danger to themselves or others.

When searching a young person with consent, the following guidelines should be adhered to:

1. The member of staff should be of the same gender.
2. A second member of staff should be present.

3. The search should be carried out in private.
4. Only outer garments should be searched.
5. Anything found must be recorded and the signature of the pupil be obtained if possible.
6. Parents/guardians of under 18's must be informed of the search, whether or not anything is found.
7. A record of the search will be made and retained.

The search of bags also requires points 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 to be followed.

It is important that when searching a person, one respects differing culture diversity and religious observances.

Young people need to be informed that any drugs found on their person will be handed over to the police.

### **3.6 Illegal Substances**

Any illegal substances found by teaching staff, under any circumstance, must be stored securely and destroyed or handed over to the police at the earliest possible opportunity. The find must be witnessed by at least one other member of staff in addition to the finder.

## **4. Storage and Administration of Medicines**

The Academy acknowledges that parents and carers have responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate. There is no legal duty that requires teachers to administer medication; this is a voluntary role and will only be called upon in exceptional circumstances.

## **5. Confidentiality**

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parent/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information will be done sensitively and on a need to know basis.

## **6. Sanctions**

We would use permanent exclusion in most circumstances where drugs are brought on to the Academy site. However, we would make every attempt to intervene early where there are concerns about a pupil becoming involved in drug or alcohol misuse outside of the Academy and to provide support to divert the behaviours.

## **7. Roles and Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to alert the Designated Senior Leads (DSL) or Principal/Head of School to any concerns with pupils who are suspected of having contact with illegal substances, either on a personal use or family basis.

The DSL works in-line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' which is detailed in the Safeguarding Policy.

It is the responsibility of the Principal/Head of School to ensure that the policy is implemented and reviewed every two (2) years.

## **8. Support**

The Academy will provide pupils with opportunities to gain appropriate support and information if they have worries or concerns about drugs, tobacco, alcohol and substance abuse issues. This will be through:

- Form Tutors
- Heads of Year
- School nurse
- Young Addiction