

# **Drugs & Substance Misuse Policy**

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## **Purpose of the policy**

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school, to ensure compliance with criminal law, under which it is an offence for any young person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs in school.
- To promote and safeguard the health, wellbeing and safety of students and others who use the school.
- Provide guidance on the drug education programme, so that students develop skills they might need to avoid the misuse of substances.
- Enable staff to manage drugs found on the academy premises with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies
- Clarify where students who are using substances or who have concerns about the

## **Definitions and terminology**

The definition of a drug given by the United National Office on Drugs and Crime is:

‘A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave’.

The term ‘drugs’ and ‘drug education’, unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this policy to refer to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive substances (NPS)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines

## **The academy’s stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students**

The school operates a ZERO-TOLERANCE POLICY TO DRUGS. Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable on the school premises, nor are they acceptable in situations outlined within sections this policy. All students are made aware of the zero-tolerance policy through Assemblies and through PSHE / British Value sessions.

There are no circumstances in which it is appropriate/acceptable for staff or visitors to use tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of students. Any information about illegal drugs or the illicit sale of legal drugs outside the scope of this policy, as defined above, will be passed on to the police. This includes sale of tobacco, solvents and alcohol to under age people and any information about the use, possession or supply of illegal drugs.

It is an offence under Section 8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 for the management of establishments (this includes schools) to knowingly permit the supply or production of any illegal drugs on their premises. It is also an offence to allow premises to be used for the smoking of cannabis or opium, and the preparation of opium.

## **Staff with key responsibilities for drugs**

The Assistant Principal and DSL have overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for overseeing and coordinating drug issues. All members of the Senior Leadership Team and the Senior Pastoral Leaders have authority to search students if they have reason to believe students have substances or have been involved in incidents relating to any of the above.

### **Management of drugs at the academy**

**Legal drugs:** The Police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs it is at the academy's discretion.

**Substance's:** If students are caught with banned substances such as electronic cigarette's, tobacco pouches, lighters or any related equipment these will be confiscated immediately. The academy has the right to keep hold of these items and dispose of them without returning them as they are banned and they should not be brought on the premises at any point.

### **Police involvement**

If any drug related incidents should occur, the safety and well-being of the child will always be the overriding concern. Each incident will be considered on a case-by-case basis taking into account the circumstances of the individuals and the parents, Police and other appropriate agencies will be informed according to the needs of the individual concerned. A range of options will be explored in responding to the needs of the student which will include:

- Referral to Early Help
- Referral to an external agency
- Referral to the school nurse
- Referral to social care

### **Sanctions**

At ESSA we have applied the behaviour policy to drug-related incidents and the following responses are likely to occur. Depending on the individual case the incident will usually be pending investigation as we will seek advice and guidance from Police and possibly other agencies.

### **Drug education**

Current national guidance states that the purpose of drug education should increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- Short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
- Rules and laws relating to drugs
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- Prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers

- The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves

The following principles are applied in every session/module around drug education:

- Negotiated for the discussion of this sensitive issue
- An assessment of where students are in terms of e.g. Knowledge, language, skills, interest and anxieties is the first activity.

**To be reviewed September 2019**