



DRAFT Anti-Drugs Policy

LGB Approved Date	November 2026
Version	1.1
Author Initials	RDK
Review Date	November 2027



1. Principles

1.1 The Academy ensures that all members are informed about the nature and effects of drugs through circle time in Primary or the PSHE programme in Secondary.

All members of the Academy have the right to be educated in a community where neither the use nor passing of drugs is tolerated. Every situation is thoroughly investigated, and any subsequent action takes into account the need to balance the seriousness of the incident, the needs and circumstances of the individual and the need to ensure that the Academy remains a drug free community. This includes Academy trips and visits and transport to and from School.

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within the policy.

This policy has been written in line with DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a75b67a40f0b67b3d5c8a26/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

2. Definitions

2.1 In terms of this policy, DRUGS include the following:

- Controlled substances (e.g. Amphetamines, Cannabis, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms)
- Legal Highs
- Prescribed or medicinal drugs that are improperly used
- Drugs which interfere with a pupil's ability to learn (e.g. alcohol, solvents, legal highs)
- Drugs which have a harmful effect on health (e.g. tobacco)
- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (e.g. steroids)
- Vaporisers used to inhale various substances

3. Procedures

3.1 As a result of misusing drugs, a medical emergency may come about when a person is:

- Unconscious
- Having trouble breathing
- Is seriously confused or disorientated
- Thought to have taken a harmful toxic substance
- Is at immediate risk of harm
- Physical symptoms

In any incident involving drugs, the need for medical help overrides all other considerations, and the normal Academy First Aid Procedures are followed.

3.2 Suspicion that an incident has arisen involving drugs may come about for a number of reasons, including:

- Illness, inappropriate or uncharacteristic behaviour
- Information alleging possession or supply of drugs
- Drugs found

Upon receipt of such information the person is questioned by a member of the Senior Leadership Team with another member of staff present.

3.3 Pupils who smoke tobacco on Academy premises, on an Academy trip or on the way to and from Academy, including at lunchtimes, are punished through the Academy system of consequences (see Behaviour Policy). Cigarettes, tobacco, vapes or any other smoking paraphernalia found on a pupil are confiscated and disposed of.

3.4 A pupil may be asked to co-operate in a search of his or her possessions (see Searching, Screening and Confiscation within the Behaviour Policy)

3.5 It is recognised that on some occasions suspicions are quickly shown by investigation to be unfounded, and that on other occasions it is important to question a number of pupils, keeping them separate to avoid later allegations of collusion. Parents are informed as soon as possible of the outcomes of investigations. The Academy reports to the Police any relevant information gained in the course of investigations.

3.6 Any illegal drugs found during investigations are passed to the Police or other authority for disposal. Tobacco, alcohol and medications are disposed of following confiscation.

3.7 As with any other breach of Academy rules, care is taken to ensure that the consequence matches the seriousness of the offence. In determining such sanctions, the Academy takes into account a number of factors including motive, reliability of evidence, the nature of the drug, and the attitude of the pupil.

The decision about the consequences takes into account the needs of all concerned. It seeks to balance the needs of the individual pupil concerned with the key principle that all members of the Academy have the right to be educated in a community that is free from the misuse of drugs and free from any pressure or influence to become involved with them.

4. Consequences

4.1 Following an investigation as discussed above, parents/carers will be informed of the process and of the relevant consequence:

- A pupil in possession of drugs or associated equipment or who has used drugs during the Academy day is usually suspended for a fixed term of up to five days.
- A pupil who repeats a similar offence is usually recommended for permanent exclusion.
- A pupil who is found to be in serious breach of this policy, for example by possessing large quantities of drugs, or by supplying drugs to others for sale or otherwise, is recommended for permanent exclusion from the Academy even if it is a first offence.

4.2 Consequences are balanced with support, and meetings with parents and pupils following incidents always explore ways of offering support from within the Academy and/or referral to other agencies (Appendix 1)

4.3 This Policy applies to incidents which take place during the Academy day which include the journey time before and after school and lunchtimes. It also applies to all Academy trips and visits.

Appendix 1 – Organisations

- **Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.
Website: www.addaction.org.uk
- **ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.
Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk
Website: www.adfam.org.uk
- **Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems
Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk
Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
- **ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.
Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk
Website: www.ash.org.uk
- **Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.
Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk
Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com
- **Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk
- **Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.
Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/
- **Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.
Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)
- **Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/
- **DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development

and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

- **FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.
24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com
Website: www.talktofrank.com
- **Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.
Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org
Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk
- **National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.
Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk
- **Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.
Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>
- **Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)
A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.
Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762
Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
- **Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169
Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>
- **Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.
Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk
- **Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.
Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-tea>