

Drugs Policy

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Revisions Log

Date	Pages/Whole Document	Description of Change	Origin of Change (e.g. Routine Update, request for Review)

Foreword

At Knutsford Multi Academy Trust we aim to ensure that all students are able to learn and achieve their full potential. The Academy has a responsibility to help those who misuse drugs and to play a role in prevention of drug use. At the same time all students have the right to come to a school in an environment that is safe and protected from drug use.

This policy outlines not only the Academy's drug education programme but also the disciplinary measures that may be taken with students who mis-use drugs.

Definition

A drug is defined as "a medicine or other substance which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body." For the purpose of this policy the scope for the term drugs will include :

- tobacco
- alcohol
- prescription drugs
- controlled substances
- legal drugs (psychoactive substances)

If the school is unable to identify a drug or the status of the drug then it will be treated as a controlled drug.

Drugs in school

The possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All drugs covered by this policy are not permitted to be brought to, used, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or school transport.

Any breach of these rules may result in punishment including internal exclusion and fixed term or permanent exclusion. The type of punishment will be commensurate with the exact nature, degree of the offence and the repetition of offence.

The Academy reserves the right to involve the police in any drug related incident.

Drug Education and Drug Prevention

We provide a comprehensive and planned spiral drug education curriculum for all students as part of PSHCE, science lessons and the SMSC programme. It is delivered during link time for the Sixth Form and for years 7-11, during link time/PSHCE time and assemblies. It aims to provide all students with knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. The school acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps students to feel valued and to be part of the school community. In so doing it helps to foster positive self-image which may help students cope better in situations involving drug use.

Confidentiality

Students need to feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without the fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, members of staff will not be able to promise complete confidentiality in order that specialist help or advice may be sought. Information about a student in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information.

Police liaison

In most cases any punishment is likely to be in school and not a police matter, although this does not preclude the school informing the police of offences if considered appropriate. However we are aware of the legislation which controls heroin, cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, amphetamines, cannabis and other drugs. This Act makes it an offence to possess or supply drugs. It allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug in order to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing that it is handed in or immediately destroyed.

We maintain strong links with the community police and the police education liaison officer.

Counselling and support

We believe that those people who misuse drugs and controlled substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage. Strong links are maintained with external agencies (“Change, Grow, Live”) and whenever possible the agencies are used to support and counsel students.

Search and Confiscation

Please see the “Searching, Screening and Confiscation” policy

Discipline

Any drug related incident is potentially a disciplinary issue and should follow the schools normal practice. In making a response the sanction decided upon should be proportionate and mindful of both the individual and the wider community. If it is clear that an individual had an intent to supply then the school will be considering the most serious of sanction.

The school will also reserve the right to contact the police in all issues relating to drug use, possession or supply within school.

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed and evaluated annually and in the light of developing circumstances.