



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY Ramsden Hall Academy

LAST REVIEW DATE	Nov 2021	REVIEW PERIOD	2 Years
NEXT REVIEW DATE	Nov 2023	OWNER	Emma Baker
TYPE OF POLICY	Statutory	APPROVAL LEVEL	Governing Body

Named staff with designated responsibility for drugs and substance abuse and contact details:

Academic Year	Designated Senior Person	Deputy designated senior person	Nominated CP Governor	Chair of Governors	Local Authority Designated Officer
2021/22	Emma Baker	Andy Stanford	Jo Oldham	Melanie Hall	Claire Liven

1. Ramsden Hall Academy does not condone the use of drugs or abuse/mis-use of alcohol by members of the Academy community and it stands against the illegal supply of these substances.

2. An individual student may be liable to permanent exclusion if they bring an illegal substance into Academy, and particularly if they:

- Deal or supply illegal substances to other students
- Engage in illegal substance abuse in a place and/or in a manner where other students may be exposed to substance abuse

3. Ramsden Hall Academy is committed to the well-being of all members of the Academy community and uses the PSHE curriculum to deliver an effective programme of drugs education across the Key Stages and has received the Healthy Academies Award status.

3.1 Ramsden Hall Academy has a clear set of protocols when dealing with students who are either found in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol or alleged to be in possession of drugs or alcohol. The protocols are detailed below.

- Any student involved or alleged to be involved in illegal substance abuse on the Academy premises must be reported immediately to the Head Teacher or if she is unavailable the next available member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- If a student is alleged to be in possession or reported as being in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol they will be searched by the Head teacher and/or a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team and one other member of staff.
- If a student refuses to be searched parents and the Police will be contacted as a matter of course, and the Police are likely to carry out a subsequent Police search.
- If a student is found in possession of illegal drugs or alcohol they will be placed under the supervision of the Head Teacher and/or a designated member of the Senior Leadership Team. The Head teacher and/or designated member of Senior Leadership Team may undertake a further search. The police will be contacted. Parent(s)/Carer(s) will be contacted.
- If a student is suspected to be under the influence of illegal drugs we will contact parents/carers. We have the facility to carry out a non-invasive test for drug use and can do so at the parents/carers request with permission of the student.

- If the test is required the medical officer/first aider will carry it out with a member of SLT present.

3.2 The Head teacher will work in liaison with the appropriate members of staff to manage the most effective response to any incident of substance misuse.

3.3 If a student is found in possession of alcohol or deemed to be intoxicated with alcohol parent(s)/Carer(s) will be contacted and asked to collect the student from Academy. The point below will then be considered.

3.4 Any student involved in an incident will be kept as calm as possible. The Head Teacher and/or designated members of the Senior Leadership Team will do their utmost to ensure that no other young person(s) are at risk.

3.5 Child Protection protocols will be followed if any student is deemed to be at risk of significant harm. The designated person for child protection Claire Parker or any member of the safeguarding team will be consulted.

3.6 The Academy will consider each substance abuse incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses are necessary to deal with incidents.

3.7 Exercising her professional judgement the Head Teacher, in liaison with designated members of the Senior Leadership Team, will consider very carefully the implications of any action she chooses to take and will seek to balance the interest of the student(s) involved with the well-being of the Academy community and its students as a whole.

3.8 Ramsden Hall Academy will always seek to identify and support any student mis-using drugs and alcohol no matter what the sanction or disciplinary action taken.

3.9 The Academy can contact other agencies, for example: EYPDAS (Essex Young Person's Drugs and Advisory Service) who attend Academy and offer individual programmes and advice. Where students have been found to be in possession of a substance, they will be referred to the appropriate medical and/or support group to ensure that the student is afforded the best opportunity to avoid re-offending.

3.10 The Academy has a strong working relationship with the school nurse and the Community policing team and will continue to liaise as/where appropriate.

4. PSHE- Drugs and alcohol education at Ramsden Hall Academy through the PSHE programme.

4.1 All years undertake a programme relating to the use and abuse of drugs and substances, both legal and illegal, including resisting peer pressure and making healthy choices.

4.2 EYPDAS has attended the Academy with informal “drop in” sessions where students can ask for further information about the effects and dangers of substance abuse.

The Head Teacher will promote the Academy’s stance on the use of drugs in assemblies, newsletters and communications home with parents/carers.