

Policy Essential Information

Title: Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

Date Approved: July 2013

Date Last Reviewed: July 2018

Status: Non-Statutory

Delegation: Head Of School

Responsibility: Deputy Headteacher Personal Development and Welfare

Review Frequency: As required

Policy Locations: Website/Staff Shared Drive/Hard Copy

Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

Statement of intent

This policy has been developed in the light of the need to protect students, protect the interests and reputation of The Jubilee Academy and to help those who misuse drugs. The school takes a proactive stance on the issue of drugs, and believes that a coherent and well co-ordinated Drug Education programme is a vital part of the curriculum.

At The Jubilee Academy we take an integrated approach to the teaching of PSHE, RE, Citizenship, SRE and drugs awareness through the PSHRE curriculum. The PSHRE curriculum is extended throughout the subject curricula to fully address all requirements.

This policy outlines the procedures to be followed when drug related incidents occur on the premises and provides guidance for dealing with parents/carers, outside agencies, police and media.

Please read in conjunction with The Jubilee Academy's Policies on PSRHE, SRE, Behaviour and Child Protection.

Terminology

Definition of Drugs:

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education' throughout the policy, unless otherwise stated is used throughout the document to refer to:

- a) All illegal drugs;
- b) All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances;
- c) All over the counter and prescription drugs.

Witness

It is assumed that a witness is a responsible adult, and it is recognised in some circumstances that it may be a student, but this should only be used as a last resort.

Trained First Aider

Refers to any member of staff who is a designated first aider;

NB - Throughout this policy, students are referred to, but the policy also applies to members of staff and visitors to the premises.

Principles

The Jubilee Academy:

- Condone neither the misuse of drugs nor the illegal supply of these substances;
- Is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being at all times;
- Seeks to encourage students in need of support to come forward and ask for help as part of its support and guidance procedures.

The school will work within the legal framework when dealing with drug related matters.

Roles and responsibilities

Role of Outside Agencies

The Jubilee Academy actively co-operates with other agencies, such as the Community Police, Social Care, Local Authority and Health and Drug Agencies to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse; and provide support and guidance to students.

Role of Parents

The Jubilee Academy encourages parental involvement in a variety of ways including at academic progress.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body will be involved in drug education and drug related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

Role of Learning Leaders

Senior teachers, together with tutor/mentors are responsible for the implementation of the Drug Education programme within the curriculum. The Drug Education programme will be regularly evaluated and reviewed in line with the school's Curriculum and Assessment Policies.

Drugs Education Programme

Drugs education is an integral part of the Personal, Social, Health, Religious and Economic Education Programme and is in line with 'Drug Education: Curriculum Guidance for Schools' (SCAA & DFE, May 1995). Certain aspects of Drug Education are taught in National Curriculum Science, and may be taught in other parts of the school curriculum for example in English and in community and citizenship education.

At The Jubilee Academy all aspects of the PSHRE and drugs educational programmes are embedded in PSHRE.

Aims of the Drugs Education programme through PSHRE

Through the Drugs Education programme embedded within PSHRE and the Science curriculum areas we undertake to:

- Provide students with accurate information about substances;
- Increase students' understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of substances;
- Encourage students to empathise with those experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse, as well as with those indirectly affected, such as their relations and friends;
- Widen students' understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. crime, HIV and AIDS;
- Seek to raise awareness about minimising the risks that users and potential users face;
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;
- Foster self-esteem, self awareness and skills of assertiveness in our students that will enable them to resist and avoid unwelcome peer or social pressures;
- Present students with alternative lifestyles that promote health and well-being.

Drugs Education Procedures

Drugs Education will include questions of values and beliefs. It is therefore bound to be controversial. Teaching about the issues associated with substance misuse should be set within a clear moral framework in which students are encouraged to consider the importance of self restraint, dignity and respect for themselves and others and helped to recognise the physical, emotional and moral risks of substance misuse. Students will be encouraged to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, which does not rely upon the effects of substance misuse for a sense of well being.

Advice and Confidentiality

Staff may not offer students one-to-one advice about substance misuse. Neither may staff promise confidentiality to a student since there are some issues e.g. child protection, legal implications, which may have to be taken to other people.

Guidelines for Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

The Education Act 2011 makes legal provision for staff to search pupils without consent for weapons, knives, alcohol, illegal drugs and stolen items, However, staff at The Jubilee Academy will always request consent from pupils in the first instance. Pupils should be aware that College staff have this right in relation to illegal or harmful substances. The law also enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property if there is good reason to do so and this also applies to illegal or harmful substances.

Any student suspected of being in possession of any of the above substances will be asked to discuss it immediately with the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher with a second member of staff present.

A written record of the meeting will be kept. Parents/carers will be informed if the student is being sent home/excluded. Drug counselling will always be offered. It may be necessary to call the police depending upon the severity of the incident. The police will always be informed if a student is caught or reportedly dealing drugs or alcohol on site or to any other students.

Child Protection Issues

When dealing with drug related incidents, it is important that staff are aware of both the school Child Protection Policy and the Child Protection Act, and should ensure that any action taken, should meet the requirements of the law.

Confidentiality

When a student discloses to a member of staff that he or she is involved in taking drugs, that member of staff should make it clear to the student that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse. A member of staff may point out those organisations, which are able to give information and advice.

Dealing with the Media

No single member of staff should take it upon themselves to speak to the media in relation to any incident.

Monitoring, evaluation and review

This effectiveness of this policy will be regularly monitored and reviewed through the school's self-evaluation schedule.