

Anti-Drugs Policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, Trustees, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

Policy context

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: ***DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001- 2012)*** which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of students is mainly delivered to all key stages with our PSE lessons.

Other related policies and documents include

- Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- School Visits
- PSE Policy
- Medication Policy
- The school's Code of Conduct.

This policy reflects the ethos of Values Academy as a rights-respecting school.

Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, trustees and other partner agencies working with the school. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, educational day trips and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: “A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”. Here, “drugs” and “drug education” is used 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 drugs (‘illegal highs’)
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The school’s stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in Values Academy is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

Drugs Education

Aims of Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention.

The following aims of drug education at Values Academy will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students’ **knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions** about
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - local and national use
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- To develop students’ personal and social **skills** to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including
 - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves

- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' **attitudes** towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services, displays are situated around the school giving contact telephone numbers, email and website address details. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education.

Organisation

1. a) Responsibility for coordination

The coordination of Drugs Education is the responsibility of the School Principal in conjunction with the School Leader, (with responsibilities for Student Support and Guidance, PSE)

2. b) Delivery

This is through Values Education and PSE lessons.

3. c) Staffing

Teachers, and Learning Mentors deliver most of the drug education programme in PSE and Personal Development lessons.

4. d) Visitors

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education e.g. the Youth Services Team, Compass and Aquarius

5. e) Resources

A wide variety of materials is available to teachers and for inspection by parents and carers on request.

6. f) Monitoring and evaluation

This is conducted through some PSE lesson observations and the scrutiny of students' work, written evaluations by students after visits from external speakers and also a variety of informal activities involving feedback. Evaluative discussions are built into the programme.

Visitors

Code of Practice for using visitors to support the delivery of Drugs Education

- Visitors are invited into school because of their particular expertise or contribution they are able to make; invitations to visitors should be authorised by the School Principal
- All visitors must be appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a school setting.
- All visitors must have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood the school's drug education policy.
- All input to PSE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance.
- All visitors must be aware of the school's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by students during the session.
- Teachers must ensure that they reflect on the learning from particular sessions with students and visitors, assessing the learning, and building skills to support and enable pupils to make healthy choices and to avoid risk-taking behaviour.
- Teachers must follow-up any unresolved issues or concerns and extend the learning commenced by the visitor.
- All visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the School Principal with responsibility for the programme.
- The input of visitors is monitored and evaluated by staff and students. This evaluation informs future planning.
- When a visitor is acting in their professional capacity in a consultation with an individual student, they will follow their own professional code of conduct.

Confidentiality

- Staff always ensure that students know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- All students are offered sensitive and appropriate support as needed.
- Students are encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so.
- Information about sources of help is made available e.g., helplines.
- If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the school's Child Protection/Safeguarding procedure is followed (see Staff Handbook). Staff will reassure students that their best interests will be maintained and any child concerned will be supported through the process.

Dealing with questions

- Ground rules established with the class set clear parameters of what is appropriate and inappropriate in a whole class setting.
- Students' questions are answered according to the age and maturity of the student concerned. Questions may be addressed individually later if more appropriate.
- Staff are given appropriate support, advice and training for dealing with questions.
- If a teacher is concerned, they will follow the Child Protection/Safeguarding procedures.

Specific issues

The following issues may occur within Drugs Education:

Management of drug related incidents

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- disclosure of drug use;
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the school vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The School Principal or School Leader will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the School Principal or School Leader as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- The School Principal or School Leader will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the School Principal, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. *Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93)*
- After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the security cupboard.
If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- A detailed record of the incident will be made by the School Principal. A copy of the record will be kept by the School Principal. There will be no other copies of the incidents.
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Responses to drug related incidents

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident.

Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, the School Principal, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.

If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the School Principal and appropriate member of the Senior Leadership Team) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the appropriate personnel in the LA, Childrens' Social Care and police.

Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the School Principal, appropriate member(s) of staff, Drugs Liaison Officer and other appropriate colleagues.

Possible responses include:

- targeted intervention
- referral
- counselling
- behaviour support plans
- inter-agency programmes
- fixed-term exclusion
- pastoral support programmes
- permanent exclusion

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- the seriousness of the incident
- the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- the short and long term welfare of other students
- guidance in *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools* (DfE-00001-2012) consistency with published school rules, codes and expectations
- consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents
- consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours.

The CEO will take responsibility for liaison with the media if required.

Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

The school will also be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Children's

Social Care, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, for the family.

Tobacco-Smoke Free School

Values Academy is a non-smoking school for all staff, students and visitors.

Role of the Trustees

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, Trustees have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy.

Dissemination

All staff, parents/carers and students will be reminded of this policy and its procedures on a regular basis. Details are on the school website. Policies are available to staff within the school office.

Review Date: September 2021