



WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Local Academy Policy

Drugs Education

Issued September 2017
For review September 2018



Local Academy Recommended Policy

Drugs Education

Academy Transformation Trust statement

The presence of unauthorised drugs in Trust academies is not acceptable. Our academies will be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- clarify the academy's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, governors, parents or carers
- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities
- give guidance to staff on the academy's drugs education programme
- safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our academy
- enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly

Terminology

The term 'drugs' is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- all medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

Responsibilities

The Principal will:

- ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this drugs policy
- ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- manage any drug-related incidents
- ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- liaise with external agencies regarding the academy drugs education programme
- monitor the policy on a day-to-day basis, and report to governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy

The Local Governing Body will:

- liaise with the LA and health organisations, so that the academy's policy is in line with the best advice available;
- support the Principal in any case conferences, or in appeals against exclusions

Objectives of Drugs Education

Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. These elements will be built into lesson planning for PSHE in year 7-10 and any bespoke PSHE sessions. It should:

- build on knowledge and understanding
- provide accurate information, and clear up misunderstandings
- explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs
- develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem
- ensure that all pupils are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by parents/carers, governors and staff

Drugs Education

- We regard drugs education as a whole-academy issue, and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE, RE and PE.
- We recognise that teaching about drugs will begin in Primary schools in Key Stage 1, when pupils are taught about seeing the doctor, visiting the chemist, and the importance of medicines and their safe handling.
- We will ensure that our pupils are aware of the risks associated with drinking. We teach pupils that smoking is a minority habit, and encourage them to consider its effects and risks. We also teach pupils about the dangers of volatile-substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers.
- We acknowledge that pupils may have had some experiences with drugs already, so we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations, before they actually meet them.
- We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning. We find out what the pupils know already, we pose dilemmas, and we ask the pupils to discuss choices. Wherever possible, the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or ICT to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others, and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.
- We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels, and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents or carers.
- Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes, a teacher will seek support from the academy nurse or another health professional. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons in year 7-10 that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, this is supplemented by appropriate guest speakers to include year 11.
- We regularly monitor the quality of our drug education programme, through discussions and surveys with pupils, staff and parents.
- Wherever possible the academy will seek outside support. The provider will request written feedback on the support provided.

Drugs at the Academy

- Pupils may not bring prescribed medication into the academy. Parents and carers may visit the academy in the lunch break to bring and administer prescribed medication themselves, by prior arrangement.
- Where pupils have medical needs, parents and carers must give us details of the pupil's condition and medication. Parents and carers will bring the medication to the academy in a secure, labelled container. Records will be kept of all medication received and given. Emergency medication can be stored securely in student services (for anaphylaxis or asthma); other drugs will be stored securely at a first aid point. The named first aiders are the only staff who are able to administer medication, following the appropriate guidance, if written permission has been requested by parent/carer (see Administering Medication Policy).
- Solvents and other hazardous chemicals must be stored securely, to prevent inappropriate access, or use by pupils.
- Legal drugs are legitimate in the academy only when authorised by the Principal. Members of staff who smoke must keep their tobacco and matches or lighters secure. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the academy or on the academy site.

Drugs Incidents

- An incident involving unauthorised drugs in the academy is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.
- The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.
- Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm; chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.
- Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.
- Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents or carers; the academy may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances.
- The Principal will decide whether the police need to be called or whether the academy will manage the incident internally.
- A full record will be made of any incident.
- The Principal will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.
- The Principal will immediately contact the police to report the incident, if necessary.

The Role of Parents and Carers

The academy is well aware that the primary role in pupils' drugs education lies with parents and carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and cooperation. To promote this objective, we will:

- inform parents or carers about the academy drugs policy
- invite parents and carers to view the materials used to teach drugs education in our academy
- answer any questions that parents and carers may have about the drugs education that their pupil receives in the academy;
- take seriously any issue which parents and carers raise with teachers or governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the academy
- encourage parents and carers to be involved in reviewing the academy policy, and making modifications to it as necessary
- inform parents and carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that the parents/carers can support the key messages being given to pupils at the academy

When we follow the above process, consultation is paramount. This policy has been built on community involvement. This involvement has been verbal, through representatives on the Local Governing Body.

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in the academy, and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents or carers, and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will immediately contact a designated member of staff for pupil protection. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a pupil at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke pupil protection procedures, and possibly the involvement of the police.

Monitoring and Review

If the policy appears to need modification, then the committee will report its findings and recommendations to the full governing body. The curriculum committee takes into serious consideration any representation from parents and carers about the drugs education programme, and comments will be recorded. Governors require the Principal to keep a written record detailing the content and delivery of the drugs education programme taught in this academy.