



## Our Vision

ensure that all the children and young people in our care have the opportunity to fulfil their potential through achieving highly, regardless of their ability or background

## Drug and Alcohol Policy 2018-2020

Co-ordinator:	Mrs J Kingswood (Principal)
Start date:	June 2019
Review date:	June 2021

## The Purpose of this Policy

The overall purpose of the policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the Academy
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the Academy
- clarify the Academy approach to drugs and drug use for staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community

## Definitions and Terminology

The Academy has adopted the definition for the term “drug” from the DfES document ‘Drugs: Guidance for Schools’ (February 2004). The term “drug” refers to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) a drug is defined as “a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.” Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers), caffeine, e-cigarettes and ‘legal highs’ (novel psychoactive substances)
- all over-the-counter and prescription drugs
- drug paraphernalia refers to any equipment, product or material of any kind which is intended or designed for use in manufacturing, compounding, converting, concealing, producing, processing, preparing, injecting, ingesting, inhaling, or otherwise introducing drugs into the human body.

## Documents Consulted

The following sources have been consulted in the development of this policy;

- DfE and ACPO Drugs Advice for schools 2012
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation advice for schools 2018

## The Academy's Position on Drugs, Health and the Needs of the Students

We are committed to the Academy being drug free. Any student who brings illegal drugs or alcohol onto the Academy site, or who takes part in any drug/alcohol related behaviour which may bring the Academy into disrepute, may be permanently excluded. This includes behaviour to and from the Academy.

If a student knows that another student has brought illegal drugs, alcohol or drug paraphernalia onto site, he/she should report this immediately to a member of staff. Failing to report this would be a very serious matter and may lead to further consequences.

Anything worn or brought into the Academy must not have drug-related slogans, symbols or badges on them. Students are not allowed to make any inappropriate references to illegal drugs, which includes behaviour such as drug related graffiti, using slang terms or gestures.

The Academy is a fully no-smoking site. Students are not allowed to smoke in or around the Academy, or as they come to and from Academy. Smoking materials of any kind are not to be brought into the Academy and if found, will be confiscated. Students must also not stand with, or be in the presence of, other students if they are smoking as this will be seen as being complicit with such behaviour.

The primary concern in managing drugs/alcohol in the Academy is the health and safety of the Academy community. The Academy recognises some pupils are more susceptible to drug use and other social problems. The Academy supports vulnerable young people to be identified and receive support through the curriculum, the pastoral system or through referral to other services.

In every case of an incident involving drugs, the Academy places the utmost priority on safety. It will meet any medical emergencies with first aid and summon the appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, the Academy will seek medical assistance immediately.

## Staff with Key Responsibilities for Drugs

The Principal has overall responsibility for co-ordinating, evaluating and reviewing the drug education programme.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead, Director of PE and Health and the Welfare Assistant have key roles. Support from outside agencies is sought as appropriate including the Pingle Multi Agency Team (MAT).

## The Role of Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the Academy, the governors play a role in the development of the policy on drugs and the Academy's drug education programme.

## The Role of Parents and Carers

Parents and Carers are a vital part of our response network to drug/alcohol related incidents. We believe it is important that we seek to work together to:

- provide consistent messages
- offer support
- develop mutual understanding

The Academy will endeavour to include Parents and Carers in its response to drug/alcohol related incidents through:

- direct contact
- contact through support agencies
- information sharing
- awareness raising

## Support and Training

The Academy will ensure that staff with the most direct involvement in the application of this policy such as the House Team and staff teaching drugs education are provided with access to up to date information and relevant training.

## The Context of the Policy and its Relation to Other Policies

This policy has direct links with other Academy policies including:

- Health & Safety policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Relationships & Sex Education policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy

## Procedure

### a) Drug/alcohol Education

The aim of the Academy's drug education programme is to increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- the short and long term risks and effects of drugs and alcohol
- the rules and laws relating to drugs, including new drugs
- the impact of drugs/alcohol and drug use on the individual, families and communities
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug/alcohol use amongst peers

- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs

We aim to develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:

- assessing, avoiding and managing risks
- communicating effectively
- resisting pressures
- finding information, help and advice
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies
- developing self-awareness and self-esteem
- enabling pupils to explore their own and other people's attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring the media and other social influences.

### **Drug/alcohol education programme**

The drug/alcohol education programme is largely taught in PSHE lessons throughout Years 7-11. Drugs/alcohol education is also taught in Science and GCSE PE lessons. Assemblies throughout the academic year also cover drugs education and keeping children safe. The Academy will also endeavour to make use of visiting speakers, multi agencies and workshops where possible.

### **Methodology**

The Academy adopts teaching methodologies that involve all pupils in active learning. The Academy is committed to delivering drug/alcohol education across the curriculum, as appropriate.

Drug/alcohol education is taught in a safe, secure and supportive learning environment with pupils establishing and reviewing class ground rules and group agreements to nurture mutual respect in which any pupils feel comfortable and ready to listen and discuss each other's opinions.

### **Involvement of Parents and Carers**

The Academy believes parents/carers have an important role to play in supporting their child's drug education. The Academy ensures parents/carers are:

- made aware of the Academy approach to and rationale for drug/alcohol education through this policy
- given information about their child's drug/alcohol education and Academy rules in relation to this
- able to access information about drugs and local and national sources of help
- encouraged to attend any relevant parent events to access support from outside agencies

## **Procedure**

### **b) Managing drug/alcohol-related incidents**

#### **Dealing with suspected illegal and unauthorised drugs**

The Principal or Vice Principal will take temporary possession of any substance believed to be illegal drugs/alcohol and dispose of it in line with the local protocols agreed with Derbyshire Constabulary. Staff will confiscate any substances which they believe to be harmful to students or paraphernalia related to drug use including:

- Alcohol and tobacco: parents/carers will be informed and given the opportunity to collect the alcohol and tobacco, this includes e-cigarettes which contain nicotine and lighters.
- Volatile substances: given the danger posed by volatile substances, the substances will be disposed of immediately.

**In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs schools are advised to:**

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below)

**Dealing with drug paraphernalia**

Needles or syringes found on the Academy premises will be collected with a brush and dustpan by Academy staff wearing gloves. Objects will be appropriately disposed of in the “sharps bin.”

**Searches**

All searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress. After any search involving students, the Academy, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative, may contact parents/carers. Any decision to search will be approved by the Principal and recorded in full. Further details regarding searching can be found in the Academy Rewards, Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

**Personal searches/searches of personal property**

If a pupil is suspected of concealing illegal or unauthorised drugs/alcohol or related paraphernalia, a member of staff of the same gender as the student may carry out a search – this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to persuade the pupil to voluntarily hand over any drugs in the presence of a second adult witness. This is normally done by asking the pupil to empty bags, pencil cases and turn out pockets. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, the Academy will proceed under formal lines by contacting the police.

**Searches of Academy property**

Staff will search Academy property, for example, a pupil’s locker or desk, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Individuals who refuse should be made aware that the staff might proceed with the search if consent is refused. All searches are carried out with sensitivity.

## **Responding to drug/alcohol-related incidents**

When the Academy believes a drug/alcohol-related incident has occurred, it will conduct a careful investigation to establish the nature and seriousness of the incident. The Principal will be involved at all stages. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved. The Academy will respond to the holistic needs of the child, not solely the drug/alcohol-related issue. If, during the investigation, the Academy decides the police should be involved, they will contact them.

## **Managing incidents of parents/carers under the influence or judged to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol on the Academy premises**

Where the behaviour of a parent/carer under the influence of drugs/alcohol places a child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff will consider whether to invoke safeguarding procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

Where pupils are affected by their parents'/carers' or siblings' drug or alcohol misuse, the Academy will ensure the child/young person receives support to meet his/her identified needs and, where appropriate, complete a referral for support services.

## **Police involvement**

### a) Legal drugs

The police will not normally be involved in incidents involving legal drugs but the Academy may inform the local Trading Standards Department or police regarding the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances.

### b) Illegal drugs

Where illegal substances are found, the police will be contacted to decide if the Academy will manage incidents internally and what information needs to be shared.

## **Involvement of parents and carers**

In any incident involving illegal or unauthorised drugs, subject to police investigation, the Academy will involve the child's parents/carers and explain how the Academy intends to respond to the incident and to the student's needs. Where the school suspects that to do this might put the child's safety at risk, or if there is another concern for the child's safety at home, then the Academy will exercise caution when considering involving the parents/carers. In any situation where a student may need protection from the possibility of abuse, the Academy Designated Safeguarding Lead will be consulted and local safeguarding procedures will be followed.

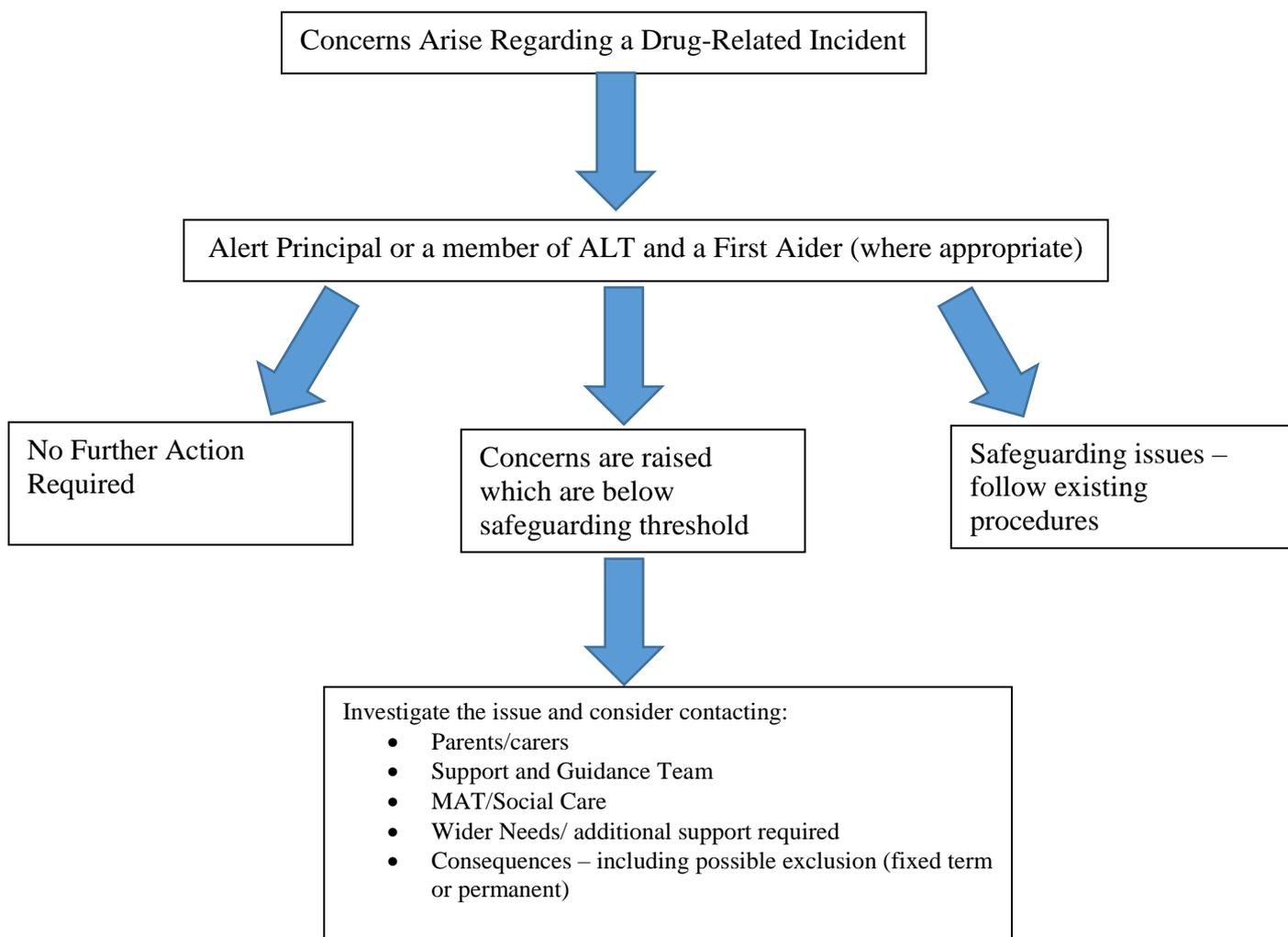
## Consequences for drug/alcohol related incidents

Any student who brings illegal drugs/alcohol onto the Academy site, or who takes part in any drug/alcohol related behaviour which may bring the Academy into disrepute, may be permanently excluded. This includes behaviour to, from and around the Academy.

### Review and monitoring

The Principal will be responsible for monitoring the effective implementation of the policy. The policy will be reviewed bi-annually or sooner in light of new guidance.

The Academy will make every effort to keep abreast of new legislation which responds to development in the use or misuse of legal and illegal drugs such as e-cigarettes and novel psychoactive substances. It therefore takes account of advice given by DfE (Department for Education) and ACPO (The Association of Chief Police Officers) in respect of drugs and briefing by ADEPIS (Alcohol and Drug Education and Prevention Information Service).



Signed..... Chair of Governors

Date.....

## Annex A – Useful Organisations

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640

Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510.

Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902

Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910

Email: [clc@essex.ac.uk](mailto:clc@essex.ac.uk)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk)

Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550

Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor** UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494.

Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

**Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>