



GREENWOOD ACADEMIES TRUST

Drugs Policy

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Statement of Intent

The Greenwood Academies Trust has a statutory duty to promote pupils' wellbeing by:

- providing accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information
- tackling problem behaviour in an Academy
- working with local organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug and alcohol misuse.

1. Introduction

Drugs can be deemed as 'a substance that changes the way we feel, think or behave', as defined by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The term 'drugs' includes:

- Medicines
- Volatile substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Illegal drugs
- New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)
- Other unauthorised substances

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, Academy Advisory Council (AAC) members and partner agencies working with the Trust.

The policy, in line with all other Trust and Academy rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within Academy boundaries but on all visits, trips and residential visits, including those made outside of normal Academy hours. It will also be applied to the immediate vicinity of each Academy, if appropriate.

This policy is formulated to run alongside and support other policies of the Trust.

2. Trust Ethos

The Trust is committed to providing a secure environment for pupils, where children feel and are kept safe. The Trust recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, irrespective of the role they undertake or whether their role has direct contact with or responsibility for children or not.

To this end, we strive to establish a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs by pupils, staff and visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances, is condoned.

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the Trust community and meeting the pastoral needs of its pupils.

3. Early Intervention

Academies have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. Support can be offered at differing levels:

- General information and education
- Targeted prevention
- A detailed needs assessment and more intensive support

Planned specialist intervention programmes can be very effective in rectifying experimental drug behaviour and getting a young person back on track.

Pupils can access help and advice from the following organisations:

Alcohol

- Alcohol Concern www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
- Drink Aware www.drinkaware.co.uk
- Drink Line 0300 123 1110

Smoking

- Ash www.ash.org.uk
- Smoke Free www.nhs.uk/smokefree / www.smokefree.gov

Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse

- Re-Solve www.re-solv.org

Drugs

- FRANK www.talktofrank.com
- Mentor UK mentoruk.org.uk
- Addaction www.addaction.org.uk

Pupils whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs

- Skills for Life (via Addaction above)
- Stars National Initiative www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Advice for parents

- ADFAM (Drugs and Alcohol) www.adfam.org.uk
- Family Lives www.familylives.org.uk

Advice on the Law

- Coram Children's Legal Centre www.childrenslegalcentre.com

There may also be other local support available if you contact the pastoral support team within the Academy.

4. Responding to Drug Related Incidents

Safeguarding responsibilities for staff are fully explained as part of the staff induction programme. Staff responding to reports of any drug related incident should have received high quality training.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on an Academy premises, the safety of the pupil and those around them should be the first priority and, if necessary, dealt with as a medical emergency.

If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Trust Safeguarding Policy should be followed.

All incidences will be recorded and the following procedures applied:

- Establish if the pupil requires medical help.
- Remove pupil from classroom to a suitable room or office.
- Make it clear to them what you are suspicious about.
- Ensure that all immediate medical and safeguarding concerns are addressed.
- Give them the opportunity to talk or give their side of story.
- Make clear the appropriate steps that will now be taken.
- Seek assistance from a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) or Head of Department via ON CALL.

Procedures for managing parents/carers under the influence of drugs on Academy Premises

If a parent or carer is found to be under the influence of drugs on the Academy site, such that a member of staff feels they are a risk to pupil, they must be asked to leave.

Staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. If staff have concerns regarding discharging a pupil in to the care of a parent/carer, attempts should be made to discuss alternative arrangements with the parent/carer, for example requesting another family member to escort the child home. The focus of the staff must be the maintenance of the pupil's welfare, as opposed to the moderation of the parent's behaviour.

Where the behaviour of the parent/carer immediately places the child at risk of significant harm or repeated behaviour places the child at risk or the parent/carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether to invoke child protection procedures and/or the involvement of the police.

5. Searching Young People

If there is a need to search a pupil or his/her belongings, staff should be aware that it is legal for designated staff to search a pupil if they believe they are carrying weapons, drugs or anything that may be considered a danger to themselves or others.

When searching the young person this will be carried out in line with DfE guidance:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554415/searching_screening_confiscation_advice_Sept_2016.pdf

The search must be documented and placed on record (including the reason, time, place, persons involved and the outcome).

Where any alcohol, suspected illegal drugs, potentially harmful substances and/or drugs paraphernalia are found, parents will be informed.

Any suspected illegal drugs found on a pupil will be handed over to the police.

It is important that when searching a person, one respects differing culture diversity and religious observances.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the Academy Complaints Procedure, available from the Academy or Trust website.

6. Tobacco

The minimum age for smoking is 18 years.

All Academy sites, in line with other public buildings, are subject to 'smoke free legislation'. Therefore, all Academy sites are smoke free sites for all staff, pupils and visitors, as shown clearly on all Academy sites.

7. NPS and other Legal Drugs

NPS are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs. Despite this, they are not always safe to use and will be treated as an unauthorised substance.

If there is any uncertainty about what a substance is, it will be treated as a controlled drug.

8. Storage and Administration of Medicines

Medicines should only be brought into the Academy when essential; that is where it would be detrimental to a child's health if the medicine were not administered during the school day.

The Academy will only accept medicines that have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse prescriber or pharmacist prescriber. Medicines should always be provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage. All medicines provided by parents will be securely stored in a locked cabinet.

The Academy will not look after prescribed medicines that are scheduled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Children who require a controlled drug must be prescribed one that does not require administration during the school day.

Please refer to the Trust Medical Support for Pupils Policy for further information.

9. Confidentiality

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed.

This will help in retaining the trust of pupils and parent/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information will be done sensitively and on a need to know basis.

10. Discipline

The Trust does not condone or tolerate the possession or supply of controlled drugs on Academy premises or during any activities undertaken as part of an Academy's provision. This will include a pupil arriving at an Academy under the influence of substances.

The Trust operates a zero tolerance approach means that swift intervention will always be made to safeguard pupils where there are professional concerns and after all incidents related to drugs and alcohol.

Any response to drug-related incidents should balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider Academy Community.

It is recognised that drug use can be a symptom of other problems.

Exclusion will not be an automatic response but the Trust reserves the right to exclude pupils for drug-related incidents.

For a serious incident or when other strategies have been explored without success, permanent exclusion may be used.

Where drug misuse is suspected or identified pupils may be referred to external services for advice and support, with or without the permission of parents/carers.

11. Drug Education

11.1 Aims of drug education:

- To increase knowledge and understanding of:
 - the long and short term effects of drug use
 - drugs and the law
 - the Trust Drugs Policy
 - the impact of drugs on families, communities, personal behaviour
 - the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
 - moral, social and emotional issues surrounding drugs.
- To develop young people's personal and social skills to make informed decisions:
 - on awareness of the dangers of substance misuse
 - to assess and manage risk to keep themselves safe
 - to nurture a healthy lifestyle.
- To encourage pupils to:
 - explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and users.
 - access the support provided and to devise and develop coping strategies.

11.2 Advice for staff involved in drugs education programmes

It is important that all staff are fully up-to-date with current advice and guidance. The following charities publish advice and resources.

- Drugs Education Forum mentoruk.org.uk
- DrugWise www.drugwise.co.uk
- ADEPIS mentor-adepis.org

11.3 Planned Drug Education

The Academy will deliver appropriate drug education to all pupils, based on identified needs and experience of the young people.

Sufficient time during the course of the year will be provided, in tutorial and curriculum time, to deliver the drugs education curriculum for young people as laid out by Ofsted and [DfE Drugs Advice for Schools 2012](#).

For further information please contact the relevant pastoral team within the Academy.

12. Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of all members of staff to alert the Designated Senior Leads (DSL) or the Principal/Head of School in an Academy to any concerns with pupils who are suspected of having contact with illegal substances, either for personal use or on a family basis.

The DSL works in-line with the responsibilities as set out at Annex B of the DfE Guidance 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' which is detailed in the Trust Safeguarding Policy.

13. The Role of the Academy Advisory Council:

- To understand the policy and implications for members of a behavioural panel
- To monitor the rate of exclusion for drug related offences
- Members should familiarise themselves with the drug education within the Academy in case they are called upon to form part of a Behaviour Panel.