

Drugs & Drugs Abuse Policy

Reviewed by Fiona Coffin, TS Assistant Headteacher, August 2020

Ratified by Trustees 07.10.2020

Next review date August 2022

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 8 principles set out in the Single Equality Policy and an initial screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

Within this policy the term Headteacher refers to the Headteacher of the school. The term CEO refers to the CEO of the Trust.

The governors of the Twynham Learning Academy Trust (the Trust) are charity trustees and company directors and for the purpose of this policy these terms are interchangeable.

This policy reflects the legislation at the time that it was last reviewed. Any changes in legislation will take precedence over anything printed in this policy.

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 and Drugs Abuse Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012). The school also acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account.

Other related policies include:

- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour and motivation policy
- Child protection and safeguarding procedures
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Equality Policy
- Home School Agreement
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2020
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions
- Working Together to Safeguarding Children

Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents, governors 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, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

School ethos

The Trust is aware of the pressures that some young people face to misuse drugs. Our drugs education programme will be non-judgemental but our stance cannot be value free. The ethos of our schools is to respect and support all members of the community. However, whilst we acknowledge our pastoral role, we also wish to act responsibly in protecting the majority of our students from involvement in drug use whilst in school. We also see drug-related behaviour as a risk to the learning environment. For these reasons we will implement a zero tolerance policy with regard to incidents involving illegal drugs on school sites.

Definition of a drug

Where this policy refers to "drugs", this includes: alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, over-the counter and prescription medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances. By "drugs paraphernalia" we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. Our drugs education programme will be overseen by the Head of PSHE, the relevant line manager and the Designated Teacher for Drugs and Drugs Abuse. Where there is no Designated Teacher for Drugs and Drugs Abuse, this role will fall within the remit of the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

Our Drugs Education Programmes will aim to be:

- Scientifically accurate
- Age-related
- Responsible
- Up-to-date
- Explicit
- Active and involving

We aim to make students and parents

- **Responsible**, with a positive attitude to healthy life-styles
- **Confident, assertive and strong in self-esteem**, to resist peer group pressure and the lure of advertising and drug kudos
- **Aware**, of the moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- **Well-informed**, with up-to-date information concerning the physical and mental effects of drug misuse, including the risk of HIV infection

To achieve this, our Education Programme aims 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
- 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.

Early Help

We acknowledge the risks of involvement in drugs and wish to both deter and provide early support for students suspected of drug misuse. We will therefore:

- Ensure that all parents and students are aware of the policy
- Provide support for students suspected of drug use, involving wherever possible their parents
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Involve the parents in the support of children whose behaviour has given cause for concern with suspicions linked to drug use
- Working with the Police

Drugs on school premises

Possession or use of illegal or other unauthorised drugs is not tolerated in our establishment; neither will any drug-related behaviour which may endanger others in our community.

- **Medicines;** the school has a policy for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Supporting Students with Medical Conditions
- **Alcohol;** no alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.
- **Smoking;** school premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on the school premises will result in a Headteacher's Detention. Repeated incidents may result in a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.
- **Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances";** no illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.
- **Solvents and volatile substances;** the school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Procedures for Dealing with Drug-Related Incidents in School

A drug-related incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or drug paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of unauthorised or illegal drugs by an individual on school premises

- Use of unauthorised or illegal drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

We aim to have a consistent approach for drug offences and a support programme (involving non statutory and statutory services) which will be essential for school re-admission. The system is intended to act as a deterrent, but cases will be treated on an individual basis. All members of the community must be aware that permanent exclusion can be the consequence of any possession or drug-related behaviour.

For any drug incident the utmost priority will be placed on the health and safety of the school's community and all individuals. Medical needs will be addressed first.

- Police will be informed, although students need not be named
- Parents will be contacted
- Drugs will be confiscated in the presence of a witness and locked away until handed to the Police
- Usually students will be isolated temporarily whilst thorough investigations take place, including thorough investigations of personal circumstances.
- A repeated offence, or an incident involving significant amounts of drugs (to be determined by the school), would increase the severity of the outcome and the likeliness of permanent exclusion
- Where students are re-admitted to school a Pastoral Support Plan with multi-agency involvement will be initiated. Each incident will be recorded.

Suspected Drug Abuse

- Where drug abuse is suspected, the Designated Teacher Drugs and Drugs Abuse must be informed (where there is no Designated Teacher for Drugs and Drugs Abuse, the DSL must be informed). Any serious incidents that require legal intervention must be reported to the CEO for oversight.
- Relevant staff will be asked to monitor that student
- Parents will be informed
- Where the behaviour of a parent under the influence of drugs places the child at risk, staff should inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who will follow Child Protection procedures.

Drug misuse outside the school premises

In line with *Behaviour & Discipline in Schools* (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

The right to search

Schools have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the students may have a prohibited item. This includes (but is not limited to) alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco and cigarette paper or any item that a member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, or to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person. Headteachers can also search for any item banned by the school rules.

Any incident of searching, screening or confiscation will be carried out by the Headteacher, a Deputy Headteacher or an Assistant Headteacher, following the DfE guidance: Searching, screening and confiscation (2018). Parents will be informed of any incident of searching, screening or confiscation.

Dissemination

All staff, parents and students will be reminded of this policy and its procedures on a regular basis, including on induction to the school.

Relevant staff training and CPD opportunities will be available to all staff who have direct responsibility/involvement in any aspect of this policy.

The policy can be accessed via the school website, Twynham Learning website or on request to the Headteacher.

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

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 Website:

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 Website: 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 Website:

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 Website: 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 Website: 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/

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)

Drugwise 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 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 Website: www.drugwise.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 Website:

www.talktofrank.com

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

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 Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree: NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.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>

Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening Record

1. What policy is being reviewed?

Drugs & Drugs Abuse Policy

2. Upon whom will this impact?

Students, Parents, Staff

3. How would the work impact upon groups; are they included and considered?

The Equality Strands	Negative impact	Positive impact	No impact
Minority ethnic groups			√
Gender			√
Disability			√
Religion, faith or belief			√
Sexual orientation			√
Transgender			√
Age (N/A to pre-school and school children)			√
Rurality			√

4. Does data inform this work, research and/or consultation, and has it been broken down by the equality strands?

	NO	YES	Uncertain
Minority ethnic groups	√		
Gender	√		
Disability	√		
Religion, Faith or belief	√		
Sexual Orientation	√		
Transgender	√		
Age	√		
Rurality	√		

Does the initial screening highlight potential issues that may be illegal? NO

Further comments:-

Do you consider that a full Equality Impact Assessment is required? NO

Initial screening carried out by Jy Taylor, TS Assistant Headteacher, 10th June 2013, reviewed by Fiona Coffin, TS Assistant Headteacher, August 2020

Comment by CEO: