



Drug and Drug Incidents Policy

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Aims and Objectives

High Point Academy recognise that drugs are an issue in society and our young people may be placed at some stage in their life, in situations where drugs are involved. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is therefore of vital importance. This policy applies to all the school staff, pupils, parents/carers, local academy council members and other partner agencies working within the school. It applies to the school premises, day trips, offsite activities, and residential trips.

We aim to:

- Educate our young people factually, non-judgementally and with the inclusion of key partners.
- To have a clear training strategy for all staff, governors, parents/carers.
- To have clear strategy for dealing with drug related incidents.

The term 'drug' throughout this document refers to the following substances:

- Any prescribed medication used by anyone it is not prescribed to
- Any medication being misused
- Any controlled or schedule drug
- Amphetamines (Speed)
- Alcohol
- Anabolic steroids
- Cannabis (in all forms)
- Cocaine Hydrochloride (Powder)/Crack Cocaine
- Cigarettes (Tobacco)
- DMT
- GHB
- Herbal Highs
- Ketamine
- LSD (Acid)
- MDMA (Ecstasy)
- Nitrates (Poppers)
- Opiates (Heroin)
- Opiate Substitutes (Methadone, Subutex, Naltrexone)
- Phenethylamines (2CB, 2CT1, 2CT7)
- Psilocybin (Magic Mushroom)
- QAT
- Volatile Substances known as VS (Gas, Glue, sniff-able products)

This list should be reviewed regularly to reflect new drugs coming onto the market. Although not all of the above substances are illegal, their presence and usage on school premises should not be tolerated. No single category of drug should be

placed higher than any other. It is important that other drugs such as alcohol are placed on a par with illicit drugs.

Drugs and Substance misuse in the curriculum

High Point believes that drug education should be to give facts, (appropriate to their age and understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy life style and to give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and responsible choices now and in later life.

We aim to:

- To promote pupil's self-esteem and confidence.
- Educate our young people factually, non-judgementally and with the inclusion of key partner agencies.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes pupils may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with, and practice the skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs.
- To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To help pupils to distinguish different drugs, consider their misuse, benefits and harm.
- To have a clear training strategy for staff, governors and parents/carers. 2
- To have a clear strategy for dealing with drug related incidents. Education in drugs and substance misuse education should be supported by the whole school program.

Whole School Objectives

- To give accurate information about drugs
- To educate young people so that they will use drugs appropriately
- To allow young people to talk about their feelings about drugs
- To explore the consequences of misuse of drugs
- To develop coping skills for different situations

Drug Education

Within Key Stage 3 pupils will learn about:

- Healthy Life Styles
- Social Influences
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco
- Managing risk and personal safety

Within Key Stage 4 pupils will learn about:

- Health-related Decisions/ Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco
- Social Influence; abuse

Implementation of the Policy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to the Local Academy council, Senior Leaders, curriculum leaders, classroom teachers and support staff.

The DSL will therefore ensure that:

- The Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is thoroughly discussed and understood.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified.
- The underpinning aims, values and attitudes of drug education are made explicit.
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school.
- Equality of opportunity is promoted.
- Provision is made for continued professional development within fields of drugs awareness and drug education.
- There is a link between drug education and other school policies e.g. Child Protection and the School's Behaviour policy

Staff Training

Drug education needs to be a constant theme. This will only be possible if teachers are properly trained. Those involved in teaching drug education need opportunities to develop skills, knowledge, and confidence through a programme of continuing professional development.

All staff, including support staff need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities.

The Sandwell DECCA (Drug, Education, Counselling, and Confidential Advice) Education Team (formerly the Drug Education Team) are available to provide training for all staff.

Guidelines for drug related incidents

- If you hear/are told that a young person is using/in possession of a drug(s) you need to act immediately.
- Inform the DSL (Head Teacher) or the next senior member of staff.
- If possible, have two staff present, this can be important, if any allegations are made in the future.
- Talk to the pupil. Are they acting out of character? Do they appear intoxicated? Are they acting suspiciously?

- Ask them to hand over the drug(s). If they refuse and you believe that they have drug(s) on their person point out the Police will be contacted.
- Teachers can ask a pupil to turn out their pockets or search their bags and lockers, **but they should never try to do any type of physical search**. This can be classed as assault. Parents or carers would be contacted to attend the school
- Search of personal property cannot be made without prior consent. Consent should also be sought for searches of any school property such as lockers, but such a search may be conducted even where consent to it is withheld.
- If doing an investigation, make sure that two staff are present.
- Record everything on Safeguard Software (CPOMS)

If a young person discloses something about drugs

- It will not always be appropriate to talk about it at that time. Arrange to speak to the pupils and try to establish whether there is any truth in what they have said. • Offer the relevant help if it is needed.
- As soon as possible inform the DSL or a Senior Leader
- Record everything you have done on Safeguard Software.

Confidentiality

- Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality but they should understand that it is advisable for pupils to feel that what they tell a teacher can be said in confidence.
- It should be noted that it is only in the most exceptional circumstances that schools should be in the position of having to handle information without parental knowledge.
- Where younger pupils are involved this will be grounds for serious concern and child protection issues should be addressed.

Informing Parents

- Parent(s) and Carer(s) would always be contacted
- When contacting parents/carers, it needs to be handled in such a way that distress is kept to a minimum. A telephone call indicating an incident at school without giving specific details would be most appropriate.
- The pupils should be involved as much as possible in the process of contacting outside agencies and if possible they should take the lead in admitting their drugs use to parents/carers. Involve the parents/carers as much as possible in the implementing of appropriate sanctions for their child.
- The offer of support to parents/carers may need to be offered. This is where outside organisations may play a role.

- Having a parent/carer working in harmony with school can play an important role in ensuring a young person stays drug free at school.
- There may be legitimate grounds not to contact parents immediately if it is clear that they may seriously over react and cause harm to the young person or the parents are believed to be directly involved in the situation causing concern.

Involving the police

If the police are contacted regarding a pupil that has been found in possession/suspected possession of an illegal substance, the Police would respond in the following way:

- Police officers (school liaison officer/or sector officer) would visit the school. Following liaison with the Head Teacher or in their absence the Deputy Head/ Assistant Head, the officers may arrest the pupil or alternatively make an appointment to interview that person in the presence of an appropriate adult at the Police Station.
- In all cases, the West Midlands response to drug related incidents in school would be followed. The outcome of the enquiry would result in one of the following:
 - No further action
 - Reprimand
 - Final Warning
 - Charged and bailed to attend Youth Court If we are unable to contact the relevant officer for the school we will contact MASH for guidance where possible.

If the Police are contacted regarding a pupil that has been found supplying or is suspected of supplying an illegal substance the Police would respond in the following way:

- Police would visit the school (Deputy Sergeant and Section Officer/Drug Liaison Officer) promptly (certainly that school day) and discuss with the Head Teacher or Deputy/Assistant Head) for the appropriate action to be taken. Police may arrest but may make arrangements for the pupil to be interviewed at the Police Station in the presence of the appropriate adult.
- The outcome will be as previously stated for possession.
- Schools should make Police aware if they suspect of drug dealing to be occurring on or near school premises. This can be done anonymously.
- We will make Police aware if we suspect drug dealing to be occurring on or near school premises. This system can be done anonymously to Crimestoppers (0800 555 111) or 111.

Legal Standing and implications

- Consult the DSL (Head Teacher) or a Senior Leader before you take any action.
- If the Police wish to come into school and interview a young person the parent/carer must be contacted. The Head Teacher can give permission for an interview to take place if all possible efforts have been made to contact a parent/carer. This should only happen in exceptional circumstances as it could lead to disciplinary action. It is unlikely that any interview will take place in school.
- Parent(s)/carer(s) can refuse permission for their child to be interviewed.
- An appropriate adult must be present if a child is interviewed. If this is anyone other than the person who has parental responsibility they should have undertaken training on how to fulfil this role. Without training, it would not be advisable to undertake this responsibility.

What to do with any substances

- The most important thing to remember is to have a witness to everything you do if at all possible.
- You can dispose of a substance found although this is difficult. It is not a good idea to flush anything into the water system as many drugs do not dissolve fully and will pollute the water system. Incineration is the only real safe way of disposal.
- You can call the Police to come and collect the drug.
- If it is decided that the drug must be stored the following must happen:
 - It must be kept in a secure place (such as a safe).
 - It must be separately packed with the time/date and place of handing/finding it. Do this with a witness.
- If school decides to dispose of the substance it should only be incinerated due to health and safety issues.
- Have a sharps box in the school medical area to place any hypodermic needles in there.
- It is advisable to use barrier methods with handling anything.

What to do in a medical emergency

1. Call for the nearest first aid trained member of staff (see first aid policy for list).
2. If a person is unconscious, always seek medical help.
3. Remove any immediate dangers away from the person.
4. If a hypodermic needle is still in part of the body, it is advisable to remove it due to risk of further injury and place the person in the recovery position. Barrier methods should be used.

5. Call 999.
6. Try not to induce vomiting.
7. If possible, get the pupil to stand or sit. This would only differ if it were thought a person had fallen.
8. Give the pupil nothing by mouth.
9. Do not leave the person unattended. Shout for help. Do not leave the person with a fellow pupil.
10. Save any substance samples or vomit as they may be needed for analysis
11. Whilst your first priority is for the pupil(s) at immediate risk, you must ensure the safety of other staff and pupils. If at all possible, keep the area clear. This reduces the chance of risk and lessons the chance of gossip.
12. If the person is conscious, ask them what they have taken and how.
13. Keep them under observation in a quiet place. Do not try to induce vomiting. If you know what drug has been used, it may be necessary to give the pupil fluid to rehydrate them.
14. Have two staff there if possible. It makes recording more accurate, reduces stress levels and may be important in the future if allegations are made.
15. It is vital that any information, substance samples and vomit are passed on to attending professionals. It may help to save a life.

Smoking/Vaping Policy

At this school we have made a commitment to becoming a healthy school. We believe that smoking/vaping is harmful to health and strongly discourage our children from smoking/vaping. Consequently, the school is a non-smoking/vaping establishment for all young people and anyone that accesses the site.

Links to other agencies

Decca's telephone number 0121 569 2201 Decca's email: dqa1000@hotmail.com
Decca's text: 781 472746 Decca's website: <http://www.ourguideto.co.uk>

Drug concerns telephone number: 0121 580 4338 FRANK

website: <http://talktofrank.com> FRANK helpline: 0800 776600

For more information on solvent or volatile substance misuse contact: <http://www.re-solv.org>