



High Point Academy

Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Date of Approval:	16 th May 2023
Approved by:	Local Academy Council
Review Date:	May 2025

Policy Information:

Date of last review	May 2023	Review period	Bi-annually
Date approved	16 th May 2023	Approved by	Local Academy Council
Policy owner	Headteacher	Date of next review	May 2025

Updates made since the last review:

Review date	Changes made	By whom
May 2023	New Policy	Headteacher

Policy Scope

At High Point Academy, we 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, governors and other partner agencies working within the school. It applies to the school premises, day trips, offsite activities and residential trips.

Objectives

We aim to:

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

Definitions of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Here, "drugs" and "drug education" is used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines

Drugs and Substance misuse in the curriculum

At High Point Academy, we believe that the essential aim of 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.
- 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 PSHE curriculum, and is delivered in a manner which is appropriate to the age and phase of the learners.

Implementation of the Policy

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to the governors, senior managers, curriculum leaders, classroom teacher 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 Safeguarding Policy, Mental health and Wellbeing Policy.

Staff Training

Drug education needs to be current and will need to include up-to-date information regarding substances and the law. 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 believe that any adult or young person related to the school is using/in possession of a drug(s) you need to act immediately.
- Inform the DSL and/or the Head Teacher or next senior member of staff.
- DSL/SLT teams will respond to any concerns and where appropriate, inform you of any actions as a result.
- Do not conduct any unauthorised searches – always consult with DSL/SLT team. Who will inform you on how to proceed.
- Any authorised searches of property will have two members of staff present, including at least one senior leader.
- Record all concerns and information on CPOMS.

Informing Parents

- It would always be advisable to contact parent(s)/carer(s).
- 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 individual 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 cause harm to the young person, or the parents are believed to be directly involved in the situation causing concern.
- Medical guidance should be sought if you believe the young person/adult has taken drugs.

Contacting Other Agencies

The police may be contacted in relation to any illegal activity relating to drug/substance possession or use.

Children's services will be contacted if the DSL team feel it is appropriate. Guidance will be sought from the police in relation to the storage and disposal of any confiscated substances.

Medical Emergencies

In the case of a medical emergency relating to drug misuse, call for the nearest first aid trained member of staff (see first aid policy for list). If a person is unconscious, always seek medical guidance.

If possible, get the pupil to stand or sit. This would only differ if it were thought a person had fallen.

- Give the pupil nothing by mouth.
- Do not leave the person unattended. Shout for help. Do not leave the person alone with young people.
- Save any substance samples or vomit as they may be needed for analysis
- 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 lessens the chance of gossip.
- If the person is conscious, ask them what they have taken and how.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 out 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>