



Drug Policy

Date Reviewed: September 2023

Date for Policy review: Autumn 2024

AIMS OF THIS POLICY

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the Academy
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole Academy community
- To clarify the Academy's approach to drugs for all staff, students, Associates of the Local Support Board (LSB), parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme compliment the values and ethos of the Academy
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the Academy drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the Academy in contributing to local and national strategies, as part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing. As an Academy we recognise that we have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse.

Other related policies and documents include:

- Ethos and Vision of the Academy (visit www.theaxisacademy.org)
- [PSHRE Policies](#)
- [Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy](#)
- [Health and Safety Policy](#)
- [Equal Opportunities Policy](#)
- Home – School Agreement
- [Academy Behaviour Policy](#)

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Academy staff, students, parents/carers, Associates of the LSB and other partner agencies working with the Academy. The policy applies to the Academy premises, the Academy day, while travelling to and from Academy, journeys in Academy time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the Academy is deemed to be in loco parentis.

DEFINITION 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, HEALTH AND THE NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in The Axis Academy is not acceptable. The Academy is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the Academy community. In providing drugs education, and responding to personal and social consequences of misuse. Students will recognise “ways of reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations, as well as other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills.

Citizenship at all Key Stages contributes to drug education e.g. by providing opportunities to understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities, to explore moral, social and cultural issues and to discuss and debate topical issues. Where there are incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students.

DRUGS EDUCATION

Aims of Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drug education at The Axis Academy will be consistent with the values and ethos of the Academy and laws of society, as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances it 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 and the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

- To 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 and finding information, help and advice.
- Assist in 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. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services (YDAP) These sources are used in addition to the Academy's own drug and alcohol education.

Drug Education Content

The Axis Academy provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

- The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:
- Key Stage 2 & 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught about the effects of alcohol and tobacco, personal safety in being able to manage risky situations, drugs and alcohol misuse and peer pressure relating to substance misuse.
- Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught that to evaluate the social and emotional risks of drugs use including county lines, taking responsibilities for choices including risk taking and personal safety., tackling mental health and the effects that can be linked with alcohol and substance misuse.
- PSHCE at Key Stages 3 and 4 includes specific drugs education such as whether prescription drugs can be harmful, why people might take illegal drugs, types of drugs, how drugs affect people's lives and more.
- Visitors are invited in to Academy because of their particular expertise or contribution they are able to make; invitations to visitors should be cleared with the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- All visitors must be appropriately qualified and trained to deliver work with children and young people in a Academy setting.

- All visitors must have a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the session and have seen and understood the Academy's drug education policy.
- All input to PSHCE lessons is part of a planned programme and negotiated and agreed with staff in advance.
- All visitors must be aware of the Academy's protocols for dealing with any disclosures or distress shown by students during the session.
- Staff must ensure that they reflect on the learning from particular sessions with students and visitors, assessing the learning, and building skills to support and enable students to make healthy choices and to avoid risk-taking behaviour.
- Staff must follow-up any unresolved issues or concerns and extend the learning begun by the visitor.
- All visitors are supervised and supported by a member of staff at all times unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the SLT.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Staff should always ensure that students know that no member of staff can offer unconditional confidentiality. All students should be provided with sensitive and appropriate support as needed. Students should be encouraged to talk to their parents and carers and supported to do so.

It is important that Information about sources of help is made available e.g., helplines, YDAP If there is any possibility that a child may be at risk or putting others at risk, the Academy's Child Protection/Safeguarding procedure should be followed. Staff should reassure students that their best interests will be maintained and any child concerned will be supported through the process.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG-RELATED INCIDENT

Drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on Academy premises
- students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs
- students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs
- students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness
- disclosure of drug use
- information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse
- illegitimate sale/supply of drugs in the Academy vicinity.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or consumption):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Headteacher or SLT will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or SLT as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- The Headteacher or the SLT member will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.

Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93))

Staff may search Academy property, for example, students' coats, bags, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will be sought, where possible. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the Academy may wish to proceed with a search.

After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the Academy, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.

Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag and handed to SLT.

If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, contact with the Police should be considered. This decision is based on the quantity and type of drug and the circumstances in which it was found. This is a sensitive decision and

should be made in consultation with the Headteacher. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.

A detailed record of the incident will be made on CPOMS

The Academy will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

RESPONSES TO DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

The Academy will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, a member of the Senior Leadership Team, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.

If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate member of SLT) in order to decide whether others outside the Academy should be informed. These may include parents/carers, YDAP, Together For Children and police.

Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Headteacher and appropriate member(s) of staff. Possible responses include:

- targeted intervention referral
- behaviour support plans
- inter-agency programmes (YDAP)
- fixed-term exclusion
- Positive Re-Engagement Programme

Responses and sanctions will take into account the seriousness of the incident, the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned and the short and long term welfare of other students

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media if required.

EARLY INTERVENTION

The Academy has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who

require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more.

The Academy will also be vigilant to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home, safeguarding procedures will be followed. This may include involving sources of support for the child such as Together For Children and services commissioned by the Youth Drug and Alcohol Programme (YDAP)

ROLE OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT BOARD

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the Academy, Members of the LSB have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy.

USEFUL ORGANISATION

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 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)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website:

www.drugeducationforum.com/

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.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 Website:

www.talktofrank.com