

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy

The governing body of Tudor Grange Academy Redditch adopted this policy on Thursday 9th January 2014

Definition

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”

This definition has been adopted by the Home Office and is the definition that applies within this policy and which therefore covers:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates
- All legal medicinal drugs (including ‘over-the-counter’ and prescription medicines)

Aims of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the academy
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Clarify the academy’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on the academy premises, and any incidents involving such that may occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs, alcohol and illegal substances compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the academy
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the academy’s drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

Application

This policy applies to all persons using the academy site; students, staff and visitors. It applies whilst students are travelling to and from the academy, during the academy day (including break and lunch time), and during any additional times the academy is legally responsible for the student. It applies on residential and non-residential visits.

Role of the headteacher and governors

The Governing Body have overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. This responsibility is devolved to the headteacher who is responsible for liaising with the governing body, parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of those staff within the academy, who have responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education is taught partly via the science curriculum for students up to Year 11, and throughout the school by the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum. Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse issues are addressed in PSHE throughout the academy.

We believe that if young people are not given accurate information about drug, alcohol and substance misuse in the academy, then they may obtain possibly dangerous misinformation from elsewhere.

The drug, alcohol and substance misuse education syllabus is revised from time to time, but always accords with the following principles, which all staff are required to follow:

- The legal context will be made clear, including prohibitions and maximum punishments
- The zero-tolerance stance of the academy towards drug, alcohol and substance misuse while under the academy’s jurisdiction will be emphasised
- Realistic information on the effects and potential effects of drugs and other restricted or illegal substances, physical, psychological and social, will be given
- Information about how drugs and other restricted or illegal substances are obtained or used will not be given.

During the course of drug, alcohol and substance misuse education, students may be encouraged to research and debate issues, examining both sides of controversial questions, but staff, whatever their private opinions, will clearly uphold these principles.

Sanctions

The academy's jurisdiction covers students from the time they start from home to travel to the academy until they arrive home after lessons have ended, and also covers all academy-related events and visits. When the welfare of other students and staff is compromised, this jurisdiction may also cover actions taken by students when they are not at the academy or a scademy related event.

While under the school's jurisdiction, no student may at any time be in possession of a classified drug, alcohol, tobacco or other substance which may be similarly abused.

▪ Drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of an illegal drug/legal high or is caught in possession of an illegal drug/legal high (or any form of drug paraphernalia) parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher (or designated member of staff). However, we reserve the right, in accordance with the current legal guidance, to exclude any student in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs, even for a first or one-off offence. Students selling or supplying illegal drugs/legal highs will be permanently excluded. Lesser offences will be punished according to the guidelines decided from time to time by the governing body. Sanctions will range from internal isolation through fixed term-exclusions to permanent exclusion (See Exclusions Policy). In all cases of illegal drug possession or the possession of drug paraphernalia, the police will be notified and criminal action may result. We recognise that a student who is abusing drugs needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the academy and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. Drug counselling, through the academy nurse service will be offered, as appropriate.

▪ Legal highs

These relate to all 'psychoactive' drugs, including 'legal highs', and can be described using three main categories: stimulants, 'downers' or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens. They are substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Legal highs will be dealt with at Tudor Grange Academy Redditch as a prohibited substance.

▪ Cigarettes, tobacco and matches

Students are forbidden to bring cigarettes, lighters or matches on to the academy premises. Students are also forbidden to smoke on the way to or from the academy, while wearing academy uniform, or on academy visits. If found smoking or found in the possession of cigarettes, tobacco or matches, students will lose their lunchtime for a week, in the first instance and parents/carers will be contacted. Further incident may result in either internal isolation or fixed term exclusion. We recognise that any student who smokes, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the academy and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the academy nurse to be counselled regarding giving up smoking.

▪ Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to the premises or to drink alcohol on the way to or from the academy. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is caught in possession of alcohol, the student's parents/carers will be contacted. Depending on the severity of the incident the student can expect to suffer a penalty ranging from loss of lunchtime for a week (as described above) to internal isolation or fixed-term exclusion. We recognise that any student who abuses alcohol, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the academy and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the academy nurse to be counselled regarding alcohol abuse.

▪ Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into the academy unless they are for medication. In this case a letter from the parent must accompany the drugs. Facilities exist for students to keep supplies of some medicines and other medical supplies in the academy office or first aid room. If a student needs to keep medicines in the academy office or first aid room s/he should bring them to the academy office with a note from the parent/carer or with a doctor's note. Students will always be expected to self-administer their medicine and are asked to take any medication within sight of a qualified first aider. Antibiotics should not need to be brought into the academy, except on the advice of a qualified medical practitioner. The academy will not supply non-prescribed ("over the counter") medicines e.g. paracetamol to any student.

Searching and Confiscation

Under the Education and Inspections Act (2006) the headteacher and authorised staff have a statutory power to search a student or students or their possessions, without consent, where we have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons

- alcohol
- illegal drugs or legal highs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - *to commit an offence*
 - *to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)*

The headteacher and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the academy rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

At Tudor Grange Academy Redditch, the rules also extend to:

- Electronic cigarettes (also known as 'e-cigarettes' or 'e-lites')
- MP3 player
- Hand-held games console
- Mobile Phone (if suspected of being used in contravention of the Mobile Phone policy – see Mobile Phone Policy)
- Chewing gum

Any student found to be in breach of any aspect of this policy will have the offending articles confiscated.

In most cases, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco and cigarette papers, mobile phone, MP3 player or Games console will be returned to the parent/carer (only) although depending on the seriousness of the offence, they may be surrendered to the police.

Illegal drugs, stolen items, pornographic images featuring children or any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used: to commit an offence to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student) will be surrendered to the police

For regulations regarding searching and confiscation within schools, please refer to the DfE guidance at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0076897/screening-searching-and-confiscation>