

## DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

### AIM OF THE ACADEMY

To provide unique and enriching opportunities for all.

### PRINCIPLES

Every student is entitled to learn about drugs and the effects that they have on people and on society. We believe that students need to be able to make informed and responsible choices about the use of drugs and the consequences of that use.

Every student is also entitled to know about the legal status of drugs and the implications in law of the use of illegal drugs.

Drugs education is provided as part of our Science and SMSC programmes and is an essential part of the curriculum entitlement for all students.

### PURPOSES

- to raise awareness of staff, governors, parents and students of the factors involved in the use of drugs
- to give young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices about the use of drugs
- to inform staff, governors, parents and students about the legal status of drug use
- to inform staff, governors, parents and students about the Drug Related Incident Policy and the Trust rules about the possession, use and sale of drugs
- to provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about drug use and its effects
- to provide students with information about sources of advice and support on drug related issues
- to increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs
- to provide factual and accurate information about types of drugs and their short and long term effects

### GUIDELINES

Certain aspects of drug education are a statutory requirement as part of the National Curriculum Science order and state that children should be taught:

- at **Key Stage 3** (11-13 year olds) that the abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs

affects health.

- at **Key Stage 4** (13-16 year olds) the effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on body functions.

Drugs education is included in the curriculum for SMSC:

- at **Key Stage 3** areas discussed include self-esteem and peer group pressure in considering how we make decisions. The effects of alcohol in society are discussed and the effects of tobacco. Students learn about how drugs are categorised into legal and illegal substances. The effects of illegal drugs are discussed including the legal aspects. There is further discussion about how to cope with peer group pressure; to consider the reasons why people take drugs.
- at **Key Stage 4** the effects of illegal drugs is revisited. The stimulus derives from student talks and issues related to the wider influence of drugs on society are particularly discussed.

#### Confidentiality and safeguarding

All matters relating to safeguarding (child protection) are confidential.

Students may confide in a member of staff concerning their personal problems. In such cases, staff should declare, in advance, a contract to the effect that they are only willing to accept such a confidence on condition that they are trusted to use the information given in the best interests of the child.

All safeguarding (child protection) concerns should be discussed with the Trust's Safeguarding Officer.

#### Responsibility

The Executive Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy, its implementation and liaison with the governors, parents and appropriate outside agencies.

In instances involving the possession, misuse or supply of illegal substance the Executive Principal and staff involved should act in accordance with the Drug Related Incident Policy.

**Review Date: January 2016**

**Ratified Date: February 2016**

**Date of next review: January 2019**

