

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

AIM OF THE ACADEMY

To provide an outstanding education for every child in the trust through high aspirations and through the principles of quality learning using curiosity, exploration and discovery.

PRINCIPLES

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools and academies have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Langley Academy actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the academy takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

In conjunction with the DfE and ACPO drug advice and guidance for schools (Sept 2012), we believe that every student is entitled to learn about the dangers of 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.

We believe that knowledge is power, therefore drugs education is provided as part of our Science, PSHE 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 dangers, consequences and 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

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on academy premises

The legal definition of Academy premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

- Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by the Academy Health & Safety guidelines. Please refer to our policy.

- Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult or student, students parents, carers and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole academy. Parents / carers will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

- Smoking

Academy premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to the academy smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises will result in sanctions, deemed appropriate. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

- Illegal drugs and legal highs

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on the academy premises. Bringing any such items onto academy premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on academy premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

- Solvents

The academy will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on academy premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Supply of drugs on academy premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the academy premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider academy community.

Exclusion from the academy is not an automatic response to a drug incident, but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain in The Langley Academy would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the academy

A member of the Directorate or safeguarding team will (normally) be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse outside the academy premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) the academy may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside academies / schools when students are:

- taking part in any academy-organised or academy-related activity or
- travelling to or from the academy or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the academy.

The academy may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the academy.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Aquarius, Police, GP, Social Services will

be informed or consulted as appropriate.

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 PSHE and 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 Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Support for students

At the academy, the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the academy feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in the academy (Academy Counsellor, referral to a School Nurse, Raising Standard Leaders or Deputy Raising Standards Leaders, House Tutors, Inclusion Manager, Student Support Manager and Attendance Officer)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Aquarius
- Involvement of the Police

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 intensive support.

The academy will also be alert 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 Slough Childrens Youth Services, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, for the family.

Right to Search

In line with recent legislation, the staff at The Langley Academy reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

Searches will be carried out by the Safeguarding Team, Raising Standard Leaders or members of the Senior Leadership Team or the same gender and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

If inappropriate articles are brought into the academy or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the academy safe for collection by Parents and Carers at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal.

The Langley Academy works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Responsibility

The Headteacher 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 Headteacher and staff involved should act in accordance with the Drug Related Incident Policy.

Useful Organisations

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 Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910

Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

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)

Drugwise 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.drugwise.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

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494.

Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885

Information line: 01785 810762

Email: information@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

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