



# NORTH BIRMINGHAM ACADEMY

## DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

### 1. Rationale

Whilst it is likely that it is a significant minority of students at North Birmingham Academy that are actively involved in experimenting with illegal drugs outside of Academy, the evidence is that a much larger number will be exposed to the effects and influences of drug misuse in the wider community. For these reasons, therefore, drug education is an important issue for this Academy.

This policy document seeks to:

- clearly state the principles underlying our policy and our commitment to tackling drug misuse;
- define drug education and set out the aims and objectives of our drug education programme;
- set out the procedures for dealing with, and the disciplinary measures which will be applied, to drug related incidents;
- Define the responsibilities of staff with a specific role in this area.

### 2. Principles underlying the policy

North Birmingham Academy:

- condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the Academy, nor the illegal supply of these substances;
- is committed to the health and safety of all in the Academy community and will take action to safeguard their well-being;
- acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the Academy, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward;
- believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The Academy will take a proactive stance on this matter;
- believes that health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social education of every student;
- believes effective communication and cooperation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy. Fundamental to the Academy's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them as informed and involved as is possible.

### 3. Definition of Drug Education and the aims and objectives of our policy

#### ***Definition***

Drug education should provide students with the opportunities to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse. It should also ensure that they are equipped with the attitudes and skills needed to resist pressure to misuse drugs.

#### ***Aims and objectives***

Aim: The aim of drug education is to enable students to make healthy informed choices.

## Objectives

i) increasing knowledge, changing attitudes and enhancing skills:

- to provide opportunities for students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse;
- to provide opportunities for students to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs;
- to give an awareness of counselling agencies for young people who do get involved in drug misuse;
- to improve knowledge of the legal framework and penalties for drug misuse.

ii) Behaviour:

- to minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse;
- to persuade those who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop;
- to enable any students who are misusing drugs to have concerns about their behaviour and to seek help.

iii) Citizenship:

- to increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs;
- to enhance young people's decision-making skills (drug education as a vehicle);
- to enhance parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when students reach adulthood.

## 4.. The management of Drug - related incidents

A drug related incident might be defined as one or more of the following circumstances:

- i) a medical emergency arises from the use or misuse of drugs;
- ii) physical or other evidence of drug misuse is found anywhere on the Academy site or in the immediate vicinity;
- iii) alcohol or another substance open to misuse, or a controlled drug, are found to be or are suspected of being, in the possession of a student.

The procedure for (i) is the same as for any other medical emergency where the priority is to involve the Academy nurse and other professional medical help as necessary, and to inform parents.

**In all three circumstances** it is the responsibility of all teaching and support staff to report any such incident to either the Drugs coordinator or to the Principal. In the event of neither being available, the incident should be reported to another member of the Senior Management Team.

Where a student discloses to a member of staff that he or she is taking drugs, that member of staff must make it clear to the student that staff have a responsibility to pass on that information. There are no guarantees of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse.

Where a student has been identified as having misused a drug, or as being at particular risk of doing so, the Drugs coordinator will provide appropriate counselling and support, involving where appropriate outside support agencies.

## The Law and Drugs

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- i) to supply, or offer to supply, a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act;*
- ii) to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug;*
- iii) for the occupier, or someone concerned with the management of any premises, to knowingly permit or suffer on those premises - the smoking of cannabis, or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.*

## Dealing with illegal drugs

School staff will, as permitted by law, take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being a controlled drug for the purposes of protecting a student from harm and from committing the offence of possession. In the event of non-cooperation with an investigation by a student the Academy will involve the police.

The Academy will inform the police when illegal drugs or suspected illegal drugs are found on a student or on Academy premises.

## Disciplinary Procedures

**Drug related incidents are regarded with the utmost seriousness. It is the responsibility of the Principal, or in his absence the Vice Principal, having liaised with the Drugs coordinator, to decide how to respond to a particular incident.**

When a student is using, in possession of, or under the influence of illegal drugs during Academy hours or any Academy activity our response will be a fixed term exclusion. Parents, the Academy's governors and other agencies will be involved as appropriate. If it is clear that a student is selling illegal drugs and/or the health and safety of other students is directly at risk, permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final solution and this aspect of our policy will be made explicit to the students, their parents and the wider Academy community.

In cases of exclusion the Academy will take steps to ensure that the students have access to professional support and advice from health and/or Social Services.

## 5.. The implementation of our drug education programme

Our drug education will be delivered to students and students through the statutory elements of the R.E. and science curriculum, and our citizenship and other PHSE (Personal, Health and Social Education) modules. External providers will be involved as appropriate for both delivery to students and students and for staff training.

**NBA Governing Body Approval on:** .....

**Date of Next Review:**.....

**Lead Manager:** .....