

Darwen Aldridge Community Academy



Substance Misuse Policy

The sponsor's vision is that our young people make sound choices based upon their learning. Therefore our substance misuse policy is robust and is taught through the curriculum and is supplemented by our partnership work with outside agencies.

The aims of the Academy include:

- To provide a happy and caring environment in which to learn and work where each member of the school community is personally valued and where students are able to develop self respect and self control.
- To help students acquire attitudes and skills relevant to their adult and working life and be able to adapt confidently to a changing society.

This policy contributes to the furtherance of these aims and includes the following, more specific aims and objectives:-

- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices.
- To provide a clear framework for all staff for dealing with incidents of substance misuse in the Academy.

Curriculum Objectives

- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse and the effects of solvents, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs on body functions.
- To understand the importance of feeling positive about oneself and others, be able to express feelings confidently.
- To develop responsible attitudes towards the use of drugs and how to say "No".
- To develop decision making skills and know about factors which influence the process of making decisions, including choosing between alternatives and considering long and short term consequences of decisions for oneself and others.
- To increase students' understanding of situations in which drugs may be used, both legally and illegally and to develop skills for remaining in control in such situations.
- To help students appreciate ways in which they can control aspects of their own behaviour and resist peer pressure.
- To make students aware of the law relating to the use of drugs.
- To provide knowledge about how to use the helping agencies, e.g. lifeline, clinics, hospitals.

Procedural Objectives

- To set out clear procedures to be followed by staff who suspect that substance misuse is taking place or that controlled substances are being brought onto Academy premises.
- To provide an agreed framework for liaison with outside agencies including the police and press.
- To set out a clear statement of the disciplinary measures which will be applied to drugs related incidents.
- To set out the support and counselling which will be part of the response to drugs related offences in the Academy.
- To ensure that all members of the Academy community understand the very serious view which the school takes of all instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs.
- To ensure that all staff are aware of the agreed procedures.
- To ensure that all staff involved in specific drugs education have an adequate level of training.

This policy is one of a group of policies contributing to the pastoral provision at DACA. It shares with the Sex Education Policy, the Management and Motivation Policy, the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Policy on Safeguarding Children, the theme that individuals who have a high level of self esteem and who possess the necessary knowledge and skills to make thoughtful decisions about their behaviour will be best equipped to take their place in the adult world.

The Academy's Stance on Substance Misuse

- The Academy does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol by Students at DACA, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The Academy is committed to the health and safety of all its members.
- The Academy will seek to educate students about the dangers connected with the misuse of substances.
- The Academy recognises that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse and will take a proactive stance on the matter believing that such Health Education is a vital element of the Personal and Social Education (PHSE) of every student.

- Fundamental to our Academy's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for the education of young people with parents by keeping them informed of any significant, known involvement by a student with illegal substances. Co-operation and communication between parents, students and school is essential for the effective implementation of this policy.
- Whilst it is noted that the number of young people who misuse substances appears to be rising, it is important to recognise that the majority of young people choose not to do so. We need to continue to support the differing needs of young people on this issue.

Roles

The Roles of the DCPO and Governing Body

The DCPO (David Cane) takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with Governors, parents, and appropriate outside agencies and for the line management within the Academy of a SEAL/PSHE Co-ordinator who will have oversight of the curriculum aspects of the policy. The DCPO will ensure that all staff and outside agencies dealing with substance abuse issues are adequately trained and supported.

The Role of Academy Staff

Staff in whom students confide in must pass on any information to the DCPO where a student may have used substances illegally. Information cannot be kept secret by a member of staff.

The Academy's Response to Drugs Related Incidents

Cases involving substance misuse or supply on the premises are considered to be very serious infringements of Academy regulations. Parents, the police and outside agencies such as Lifeline will be contacted.

Any student that is found to have used drugs illegally, in the Academy buildings or within the wider community will take part in the following:

- Meet with an appropriate person from a specialist agency (e.g. Lifeline) to discuss the support available to persons involved with drug misuse.
- Meet with the Principal/Vice Principal (s) and parents to discuss the seriousness of drug misuse

Although each incident will be considered individually, and it is recognised that a variety of responses will be required to deal with different incidents, there are certain minimum requirements related to specific situations which may occur.

Response to Specific Incidents

No student may smoke on Academy premises, on journeys to and from the Academy or on DACA visits. If a student is known to be smoking, this should be reported to the relevant Pastoral Manager who will inform the parents and recommend that they attend smoking cessation sessions.

In each of the following cases the incident to be reported in the first instance to the Principal/Vice Principal(s) who will take the required action.

- If any student is found drunk on Academy premises, the parents will be informed immediately and requested to remove the student.
- Alcohol, cigarettes or tobacco found on DACA premises will be confiscated. The parents will be informed and given the opportunity to redeem such items.
- If any student is found intoxicated through solvent abuse, urgent medical attention should be sought and the solvent will be confiscated.

Controlled drugs found on Academy premises will be confiscated and immediately handed over to the police.

A member of staff, having good reason for believing that a pupil may be in possession of an *illegal* substance, must contact student services who will alert a senior member of staff. If the student refuses then the Community Police officer may be contacted by the Principal/Vice Principal(s).

If any student or any other person is found supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug, the Principal/Vice Principal(s) must be informed immediately. They will inform the police and the parents.

Any equipment involved in drug misuse found on school premises will be disposed of according to the guidelines. Needles and syringes, which present a considerable health hazard, must be handled with extreme care and stored in a suitable container until collected and disposed of on police advice. D Cane will be responsible for co-ordinating this.

Drugs Education Programme

The programme for drugs related education is partially cross curricular but is drawn together by easily identified units of work in the PSHE Programme which is delivered during tutorials and specific PSHE days. This programme is based on a skills led approach and is delivered mainly by appropriate and experienced professional agencies under the direction of the SEAL/PSHE Co-ordinator and Vice Principal (Pastoral Care). Senior staff also contribute to the programme with assemblies.

A Brief Synopsis of the Drugs Education Programme is as follows: -

Year Group	Topic	Time
Year 7	Substance Use and Misuse	Term 3
Year 8	Anti-social behaviour	Term 6
Year 9	Illicit substances	Term 3
Year 10	Stress and depression	Term 5
Year 11	Consequences of substance Use and misuse	Term 3
Year 12/13	Alcohol and recreational drug use	Term 3