



## Longsands Academy and Astrea Sixth Form Drugs Policy

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## Definitions

The Academy defines a drug as a substance that someone takes which changes the way they think, feel or behave. Drug misuse is defined in this Academy as the taking of a substance which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual or of other individuals or which is illegal. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

*This includes:*

- Illegal drugs (controlled under the 1971 Misuse of Drugs Act) e.g. cannabis, heroin, LSD, ecstasy, mephedrone (added as a result of a change to Government legislation)
- Cannabis infused products (including those containing only CBD)
- Psychoactive substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents/volatile drugs – e.g. industrial glues, petrol, butane gas, some aerosols
- Prescription medicines – e.g. tranquillisers, Ritalin, anabolic steroids
- Over-the-counter medicines – e.g. paracetamol, cough medicines
- Other legal drugs e.g. caffeine, Khat and alkyl nitrates

## Purpose

Longsands has a whole Academy approach to drugs as part of its commitment to promoting health and wellbeing. The policy aims to enable students to make informed choices by increasing their knowledge and providing opportunities for them to explore their own and others' attitudes.

To protect the safety and wellbeing of all students and staff, drugs must not be possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on the Academy premises or during the working day, including when students are on educational visits. This policy applies to all adults working at and for the Academy. Individual exceptions will be made for students and staff who need to take prescribed medicines.

*This policy seeks to ensure that:*

- Young people in Longsands Academy receive common messages about drug misuse.
- Through the Academy's Personal Development curriculum, young people understand the law around drug misuse.
- Drug related incidents are addressed throughout the Academy in a consistent manner.
- The pastoral system seeks to support students who come forward.
- Academy staff are equipped to recognise warning signs of substance misuse.

## Student Welfare

*In all cases, the welfare of young people is paramount. We aim to enable students to:*

- stay safe from substance misuse
- have the high self-esteem and interpersonal skills that enable them to be safe and in control
- to receive a curriculum that prepares them at an appropriate age for a world where there is potential for exposure to drugs

## Confidentiality

Some students may choose to mention instances of drug use in class or to individual members of the Academy community. Whilst every effort should be made to help students requiring support, staff need to follow our safeguarding guidelines and clearly state that they may not be able to guarantee confidentiality. If a student admits to using or supplying drugs off the premises, a member of SLT should be informed, who will discuss the matter with the relevant staff and the Principal.

## Roles and Responsibilities

All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour.

The **Principal** will ensure that:

- The Assistant Principal – Pastoral and Assistant Principal – Personal Development will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy
- A planned drug education programme is provided as part of Personal Development and science curriculum that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills
- Teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents
- Students are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them
- Clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents
- Those students who have a concern about drugs are provided with support
- Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the Academy and trust policies
- The Academy actively co-operates with other agencies such as Astrea Academy Trust, community police, social care, the LA and drug related agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs policy.

All **staff** are expected to:

- Report incidents of drug misuse to the Principal or designated member of SLT
- Follow safeguarding procedures
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- Consider the impact of students seeing them smoking near the Academy premises

All **teachers** are expected to:

- Implement the drug policy and attend associated training to increase their understandings of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practicing personal skills to resist peer group pressure and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse.
- Provide accurate information about drugs.
- Widen their own and students' understanding of related health, wellbeing and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV, AIDS and STI's.

All **students** are expected to:

- Follow the Academy rules.
- Alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the Academy site.

- Report any incidents of drug misuse they are aware of to an appropriate member of staff, typically the Head of Year

**Parents** will be encouraged to:

- Endorse the Academy's approach to drugs education.
- Work in partnership with the Academy to overcome the misuse of drugs.
- Report to the Academy any incidents of drug misuse they are aware of, typically by contacting the Head of Year.

The **Local Education Consultative Committee** oversees the Academy's policy for drug related incidents.

### **Response to possible drug related incidents**

The Academy will consider each drug incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The Academy will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other Academy members and the local community.

Following discussions with appropriate pastoral staff, one of the two Assistant Principal's indicated above (or other members of SLT) will inform the parents as soon as possible. The Academy and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved. The Academy will automatically inform the police of any incident which involves illegal drugs.

In instances involving drugs misuse, possession of, or supply on the premises, or whilst representing the Academy, the following procedures will apply.

### **Response to drug misuse**

1. Dependent on circumstances, the student may be placed on a managed move or even permanently excluded from Academy. A fixed term exclusion may also be used, including to allow time for an investigation to take place. All sanctions will be in line with trust policies.
2. The police will be contacted at the earliest opportunity.
3. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents or carers at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the student. Note: parents do not need to be contacted if the Academy feels it necessary to first search a student suspected of carrying or having drugs in Academy. Any search will be conducted in line with the Academy's search procedures. We follow the DfE guidance on searching students and confiscating property.
4. Should a drug suspected of being illicit be found on the Academy premises it will be handed to a senior member of staff and, in the presence of another member of staff placed in a sealed container in a locked location noted by the Head's PA (e.g. filing cabinet; Academy safe) until it can be delivered to or collected by a police officer. The police officer will also be involved in advising the Academy on the most appropriate response to the situation. All incidents must be recorded.
5. Incidents involving drugs will be investigated using our normal procedures.
6. All staff will be made aware of any current legal constraints on gathering evidence and questioning those involved. They will not take action without involving senior staff.

In circumstances where a student is not permanently excluded a Pastoral Support Plan may be undertaken. This may lead to an identified support programme which will include a range of professional colleagues who can give and obtain advice, support and information in drug or alcohol related situations. These include:

- Members of Academy pastoral leadership
- Locality Young People's Worker
- The local police youth crime reduction officer/Police Community support Officer
- Representatives of the local youth offending team
- CASUS - Cambridgeshire Under 18 Substance Misuse Service

### **Involving parents, searching and dealing with complaints**

The Academy is not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child. The Academy is not legally required to make or keep a record of a search, but an entry will be made on CPOMS to help enable the Academy to respond to any future enquiries from a student or parent/carer.

The Academy would normally inform the individual student's parents or carers where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so. Should staff believe that a student is under the influence of drugs due to misuse, the Academy's First Aider will typically assess the students alongside a member of SLT and then appropriate action be taken. This may include the child going home with a parent/carer or other responsible family member, which will be treated as an absence on medical grounds. Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal Academy complaints procedure.

### **Liaison with the media**

The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of drug misuse is an emotive one and may generate interest from the local and national media, the Academy will also take appropriate advice and guidance from the trust central team to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families, the Academy and the Trust.

## **CURRICULUM DELIVERY OF DRUGS EDUCATION**

### **The delivery is through:**

- planned elements of national curriculum subjects, including Science and RE
- discrete Personal Development sessions
- collapsed days/sessions with specialist persons
- the Student Weekly Bulletin
- assemblies
- occasional planned and negotiated visits from the school nursing service, local policing team or other appropriate people
- informal curricular/extra-curricular activities
- CASUS may be invited to deliver whole Academy Personal Development sessions to individual students and/or groups. They can also deliver training to staff if this is deemed appropriate.

A wide range of teaching approaches is used and we particularly encourage active learning methods, which involve students' full participation. Guidance will be given on the dangers of handling drugs and the impact of peer pressure. Ground rules will be negotiated where appropriate and the sensitivity of the work will be recognised, safeguarding the interests of the student and everyone. The Academy will sometimes use specialists to deliver in Personal Development sessions and in assemblies.

### **Special Educational Needs**

In planning drug education for students with SEND, our teachers will consider a range of responses.

*For example:*

- Additional support given by staff
- Activities may be differentiated or adapted
- Programme aspects may need to be emphasised or expanded
- Revisiting knowledge and skills in different contexts
- Using strategies to increase access to drug education, such as theatre projects, ICT, Academy visits and specialist equipment

### **The role of outside agencies**

The Academy actively seeks to cooperate with other agencies such as the Local Policing Team, Social Care, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of drug use and misuse. Visitors from outside agencies who support the Academy will be guided as to the values held within this policy and the approach taken by the Academy. A member of staff is always present when visiting speakers deliver a classroom talk. Parents/Carers will be informed when a drugs related talk is taking place.

### **Guidance for staff**

Staff delivering Drug related Personal Development sessions will be provided with specific guidance and CPD training on drug matters covered within the session. This could include: warning signs in students; objects that may indicate drug misuse; the properties and impact of different drug types; procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents; a list of useful organisations.