



Dixons Allerton Academy

Drugs, Smoking and Substances

Responsibility for Review: Senior Leadership Team

Statement of intent

This policy defines drugs as substances, either legal or illegal the use or abuse of which they may have harmful physical and/or psychological effects on those taking them, and place at risk their own safety and/or the safety of other members of the school.

Signed by :.....

Date:.....

(Principal)

Signed by :.....

Date:.....

(Chair of Governors)

Statement of Principle

Dixons Allerton Academy will not condone the misuse of drugs, including alcohol, nor their illegal possession/supply by or to members of the school on or around the school premises.

Drug use for medical and/or illegal purposes, is a common feature of contemporary society. As a result, the academy, approaches to drugs education and student management seek to complement each other. We aim to:-

- Provide a curriculum that gives all school members accurate information about drugs
- Provide accurate information about the effects of drugs and about the safety implication of their use and abuse
- Improve the skills and judgement which they apply to decision making about their own behaviour, in general terms and in relation to drugs
- Ensure the safety of all school members

Drugs education will be delivered through the Curriculum as described in our Curriculum Policy, and the management of students will conform to our Behaviour Policy. Both policies should be referred to alongside this Drugs Policy.

The specific aims and objectives of our drugs education are:-

- To enable students to make informed choices by gaining knowledge, include through challenging attitudes
- To provide them with accurate information about all substances, legal and illegal
- To increase their understanding about the implications and possible consequences-health and otherwise-of drug use and misuse
- To broaden student understanding about drug related health and social issues e.g. crime, HIV and Aids
- Without endorsing drug use, to minimise the risks users and potential users face, by increasing understanding about the experience of drug abuse and of those using or likely to drug abuse

The following statements from our behaviour policy, is re-stated here to emphasise the academy's stance regarding the possession or supply of illegal substances;-

Dixons Allerton Academy regards itself as a 'drug free zone' we will not tolerate drugs other than normal day-to-day or specially prescribed medicines being brought onto the school campus for any reason.

Any student found in possession of any illegal substance will be dealt with severely. Students must understand that this may mean permanent exclusion from our school.

Any incidents involving drugs will be viewed with great seriousness. The health, safety and well-being of every member of the school will be the guiding principle of our actions.

In the event of suspected drug incident, staff should first assess the need for a first aider to examine any student involved. The referral route to report concerns should be via Heads of House and House Managers. Any student suspected of use, possession or supply of an illegal substance will immediately be excluded from the school, and the Principal or his/her appointee will undertake a thorough investigation. The Principal will also make a decision whether to involve police after assessing available information about how serious the incident is. If so, every effort will be made to inform parents of such course of action, but where it is not possible to contact parents quickly this will not be allowed to delay any action considered appropriate. All relevant judgements in such circumstances will be made by appropriate school staff.

Subject to circumstances revealed by the investigation, and other deemed relevant, a decision will be made about how best to deal with student(s) involved in drugs misbehaviour. As stated, this includes instant permanent exclusion from the school.

The school will also take a serious view regarding the possession of substances, which may be legal but are characterised as illegal to defraud others or substances that put others at risk. This will apply to visits and residential trips as well as on the school premises.

Where a parent/carer wishes prescribed drugs to be available in the school for a student to take, (s)he should contact the academy nurse to arrange for their safe keeping and for agreed access to them.

Dixons Allerton Academy wants to support any member of the school or parent who has concerns about drug use or misuse, and pastoral staff will be prepared to discuss such issues in confidence up to the point where to continue to do this would be to expose other school members to probable risk. Details of local and national support agencies will be displayed around the school.

Some academy staff have participated in police-led-service training on drugs awareness and the management of possible drugs issues. Continuing staff development will be reviewed annually by the school.

Smoking

Dixons Allerton Academy has a health & science specialism and as such is committed to improving the health of all members of the academy. Smoking is not allowed on the premises of the academy site. Students who are caught smoking will be given an appropriate sanction and will be offered a health education programme to address their smoking habit.