



## **Drugs and Drug Education Policy**

This policy is relevant for all ALP Schools

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All schools are required by the government to establish a drugs policy outlining how drug education is tackled and how drug related incidents are dealt with.

## **Section 1 = Education**

**ALP Schools aim to create flexible, individualised programmes of learning support for children and young people who, for a variety of reasons, are unable to access mainstream education.**

### **Consultation process**

This document was prepared in line with the principle of participation, partnership and supporting the needs of our learners.

### **Policy Statement for Drugs Education**

Drug use in society continues to rise, change in terms of trends and remains a problem. The acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enables students to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance. The ability to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of drugs should be part of a broad and balanced PSHE curriculum.

ALP Schools do not condone the misuse of illegal drugs, solvents and glues, tobacco, alcohol or any other substance which may be harmful, and condemns the illegal supply of these substances. We are committed to the health and safety of our staff, students and visitors and will act to safeguard their well-being.

Our schools acknowledge the importance of their pastoral role in the welfare of young people.

### **Drug Education**

Substance awareness is an integral part of the learning process for all students. At ALP Schools we recognise that the learners we care for are highly vulnerable and some may have increased chances of involvement with substances. As such we believe it is important to educate our learners. This is done via the schools PSHE/PSD curriculum which includes education around well-being with a full unit dedicated to Substance Misuse Awareness. The aims of this are:

- to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills.
- to foster and develop self-esteem.
- to provide accurate information.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences and dangers of use and misuse.
- to practise the skills necessary to deal with a situation where students may be offered drugs.
- to widen understanding about health and social issues.
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal and professional support.

### **Elements of ALP Schools Drugs Education Programme**

The aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum as well as the informal curriculum, and through extra-curricular activities. This

is supported by relevant staff training on Substance Misuse Awareness and where appropriate understanding around specific substances due to current trends.

### **The Drugs Education Scheme of Work**

Drugs education is covered in PSHE within our schools. This is delivered at various levels depending on the age, needs and personal circumstances of the individual.

For primary learners' substance misuse awareness is covered in basic, introductory terms within the PSHE curriculum. At a primary age, not all learners would be taught about substance misuse. However, if a specific intervention is required the school will work in partnership with other agencies.

For secondary education and above, drug education is covered in the Jigsaw PSHE programme under the "Healthy Me" section. In addition Substance Misuse Awareness is delivered as a standalone qualification within our PSD pathways as part of the Well-being curriculum. The subject matter is also covered in the following areas of our curriculum which learners may access:

- Jigsaw - PSHE curriculum - Relationships, Sex and Health Education
- NCFE Level 1 Award in Substance Misuse Awareness
- NCFE Level 1 in Alcohol Awareness
- NCFE Level 1 Award in Well-Being
- Asdan Short Courses
- Key Steps Award
- New Horizons
- Towards Independence
- Personal and Social Development
- Science

Within our curriculum learners are taught about:

- How alcohol, tobacco and substances may harm the body.
- The range of physical and psychological effects.
- How and why alcohol and substance misuse can have wider implications on friends, family and society.
- Local and national support, sources of advice and guidance
- Misperceptions about young peoples' health choices
- Alcohol and the law
- Alcohol and drug poisoning
- Addiction
- Smoking and vaping
- Drug classification
- Supply and possession legislation
- Emergency situations, first aid, CPR, substances and safety

Our education aims to:

- raise student awareness about the dangers of drug use
- give the students full, frank and up to date information about the short and long term effects of substances they may be offered
- inform students about their legal position with respect to drugs
- prepare students to enable them to make informed choices and rational decisions about drug use particularly in situations where peer pressure could lead them to make unwise choices.

Substance misuse education with our schools is supported by:

- Guest speakers
- Assemblies
- Displays
- Partnership work with local agencies

### **Resources and Teaching Scheme**

To reflect the differential nature of each PSHE class or the individual being taught the precise choice of resources will vary to ensure that the delivery is appropriate to the specific needs of the class/individual. Resources include but are not limited to Video clips, information leaflets, websites, worksheets, fact sheets, presentations, drug cards, drug boxes, alcohol wheels, alcohol measures and beer goggles.

### **Organisation of ALP Schools Education**

The Head Teacher, Curriculum Leaders and PSHE tutors take overall responsibility for Drugs Education. However, tutors/LSA's who have the knowledge and/or training requirement may also contribute towards the programmes of delivery.

Drug education is internally moderated by an appointed person depending on the level and course being delivered.

### **Training Resources/Provision**

The school budget recognises the provision that all staff with a responsibility for the delivery of drugs education will receive appropriate in service training. This is often sourced through partner agencies within the local community.

The school will undertake to provide drugs awareness training for all staff at regular intervals as part of its professional development programmes.

The School will attempt to gain positive community links to drug services. This should include but not be limited to drug education, counselling, support for drug users and information, advice and guidance.

### **Methodology (Teaching/Learning Styles)**

Drug education should help students make informed choices and establish a healthy lifestyle. The teaching methods used therefore are as important as the content of the lesson.

A wide range of teaching methods are used including discussions, role-play, looking at case studies and other active, creative ways of involving pupils in understanding the issues.

Ground rules are established for group activities/discussion when dealing with sensitive issues.

## **Section 2 = Drug Related Matters in School**

### **How we handle drug-related incidents.**

The schools Head Teacher takes the final decision on any response to an incident in close consultation with the Executive Head Teacher, Managing Director, Senior Management Team, staff members involved, parents and any other appropriate person or agencies.

In deciding on how best to handle a drug related incident the school seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community. We adopt a supportive approach and recognise that in some cases a young person may need support rather than exclusion.

Where staff suspect drug misuse by students they should report their concerns to the Senior Management Team, via a concern or incident form, email or a visit in person.

Where there is evidence of drug misuse (any physical evidence in the form of illegal drugs must be confiscated) this should be reported immediately to a member of the Senior Management Team.

Where students are found in possession of illegal or suspected illegal drugs a member of the SMT will interview the student, parents must be contacted and the student may be given a fixed term exclusion' whilst the incident is investigated or considered. The police should also be contacted.

If it is agreed that the student can return to the school they will be offered a support package. This may include additional support for their drug use from partner agencies, in house staff, social workers and the team around the person. This may include counselling and/or information, advice and guidance via a local service who specialise in substance misuse.

Where a student is found with illegal drugs in their possession or where there is evidence that they have been supplying, parents will be informed and the incident will be referred to the Executive Head teacher, Managing Director and Chair Executive Board for a decision on the individual's future placement at the school. The police may also be contacted.

It should be noted that in any case that involves an interview with the police, parents /careers must be present or if this is not possible a member of the staff must act in loco parentis.

**Permanent exclusion is always seen as a last resort but supplying illegal drugs to other students, supplying equipment to take drugs or encouraging other students to take drugs, will normally result in consideration of permanent exclusion from the Head Teacher, Executive Headteacher and the Executive Board (Governing Body).**

Where a student has been involved in a drug-related incident that leads to permanent exclusion, the school will endeavour to secure appropriate care and support to the student and family.

### **Procedures for Policy Monitoring and Evaluation**

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of ALP Schools approach to drugs and Drug education . This is achieved by:

- Student feedback,
- staff review and feedback,
- parental feedback
- Support, advice and guidance from partner organisations

This policy is reviewed at the discretion of the Head Teacher, Managing Director or the Executive Board.

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