



ANSFORD ACADEMY

LEARNING TOGETHER TO LEAD OUR LIVES

Behaviour and Inclusion Policy Suite

DRUGS POLICY

Status	Non-statutory
Governors Adopted	January 2024
Renewal Period	Annual
Review Due	January 2025

Section A: Rationale

This policy covers the misuse of banned and illegal substances by students.

Where the document refers to drugs, this includes illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vapes, puff bars, solvents, new psychoactive substances (legal highs) and prescription or over-the-counter-medicines [used for purposes other than those for which they were prescribed or intended].

As part of the [statutory duty](#) on schools to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the [Government's Drug Strategy 2010](#) ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the [FRANK](#) service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

This policy applies to all students during the academy day. However, students are also expected to act in accordance with the policy when they are:

- Taking part in any academy organised or academy related activity outside of normal hours;
- Travelling to or from the academy;
- Wearing the academy uniform;
- In some way identifiable as a student of Ansford Academy.

The scope of the policy extends to unacceptable behaviour at any time, whether or not the above conditions apply, that:

- Could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy;
- Pose a threat to another student, staff or members of the public;
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the Academy.

If behaviour is criminal, or poses a threat to a member of the public, the police will be informed. To maintain high standards of health, safety and behaviour, the Headteacher, or a designated member of the senior leadership team, will consult with parents, carers and the Chair of Governors as appropriate.

Section B: Aims

All who work at Ansford Academy believe that everybody within the school community should be encouraged to lead a healthy and safe lifestyle in order to develop responsible citizens who understand the dangers and risks associated with the misuse of drugs and other substances.

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist. We actively seek to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm and take a robust approach where any individual or group violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies and threatens the safety of others. Misuse of drugs by students in our community is not condoned and is dealt with consistently and clearly with regard to the needs of the school and the individuals concerned.

We encourage all stakeholders to:

- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all students;
- Understand the legal requirements and responsibilities of the Academy;

- Understand how the Academy develops, implements and monitors a drugs education programme.
- Understand the procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved.
- Understand how the Academy can support students at risk of and/or students who have been exposed to the use of drugs or other banned substances so that they do not continue to behave in this way.

Section C: Definitions

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to:

- All illegal class A, B and C drugs
- Unauthorised drugs: the misuse of prescription and other pharmaceutical drugs
- Other legal substances not authorised by the School e.g. solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs or chemicals

Legal drugs	Psychoactive substances, otherwise known as "legal highs". Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess.
Illegal drugs	Substances that are forbidden by law. For the most up to date list of drugs currently controlled under the misuse of drug legislation please use gov.uk
Controlled drugs	Drugs that are subject to high levels of regulation as a result of government decisions about those drugs that are especially addictive and harmful. For the most up to date list of controlled drugs please use gov.uk
Drugs paraphernalia	Refers to items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, vapes, lighters and pipes etc
Possession	Carrying controlled drugs is illegal and you can be charged even if you did not know what you had was a controlled drug.
Supply	An offence has been committed if you have sold or are found sharing drugs with others, even if they did not pay you for them.
Intent to supply	If you are in possession of controlled drugs, and either there is evidence that you were intending to supply those drugs, or you have more drugs than is consistent with personal use, an offence of possession with intent to supply could be committed.
County lines	A national issue which involves the exploitation of vulnerable young people and adults by violent gang members in order to move and sell drugs across the country.

Section D: Wider Contextual Strategies

Ansford Academy operates under the Department for Education [DfE] and Association of Chief Police Officers [ACPO] strategies produced for schools. To view the report please use gov.uk

Key actions outlined within the document include the requirements :

- To take action if drugs are found and to report this to the Police.
- For schools and school sites to be drug free.
- To act upon intelligence or reports that drugs may have been brought onto site or are being supplied within the local community.
- To commit to supporting those involved in drug taking or the supply of drugs or other banned substances to help them to cease these behaviours.
- To educate communities [children and parents] about the dangers of drugs.

Section E: Drug Education

All staff at Ansford Academy hold a responsibility to support young people to develop their understanding of drugs helping them to manage risk and reduce the likelihood they may be harmed by the use of drugs.

Our drugs education curriculum is carefully reviewed and evaluated, working in conjunction with local agencies and the Police to ensure our students and wider stakeholders are:

- Able to increase their knowledge and understanding, clarifying misconceptions about the short and long-term risks and effects of drugs.
- Able to understand the laws relating to drugs including possession, supply and usage.
- Aware of the impact of drugs on families, communities and personal behaviour.
- Aware of local and national risks including county lines and gang-related criminal behaviours.

In addition to developing to knowledge, our drugs education curriculum is designed to develop personal and social skills, enabling students to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy including:

- How to assess, avoid and manage risk when unusual situations arise.
- How to communicate effectively when presented with peer pressure.
- How to challenge the acceptability of drug use amongst peers, developing their own moral, social and emotional competencies.
- How to explore and understand their and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social media influences.
- How to make informed decisions to stay safe and healthy including where to seek information, advice or safeguarding support.

Drug education will be delivered primarily delivered via the PSHE and Science curriculums, however the Academy will support this through other opportunities including assemblies and other preventative events provided by local services and the Police.

Section F: Managing Drug Related Incidents

This section of the policy has due regard to the government's guidance on managing drug related incidents, namely the following key DFE publications:

(2012) [*Drugs Advice for Schools*](#)

(2023) [*Working Together to Safeguard Children*](#)

(2022) [*Searching, Screening and Confiscation*](#)

Furthermore, this section of the policy has due regard to Ansford Academy's guidance and procedures which are set out in the following policies:

[*Behaviour Management Policy*](#)

[*Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy*](#)

[*Equality Policy*](#)

[*Health and Safety Policy*](#)

[*CCTV Policy*](#)

[*Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy*](#)

Ansford Academy will operate a zero tolerance policy towards drugs use or supply on the premises or other circumstances outlined in Section 1. This will include students arriving under the influence of substances.

All incidents should be recorded using the [Drugs Incident Report](#) form and the procedures outlined in Appendix A will apply.

Some students may have additional needs which may affect the way they react to situations. Reasonable adjustments should be considered and applied where appropriate.

Section G: Confiscation of Illegal Drugs

Ansford Academy has a responsibility to hand any illegal drugs discovered to the police. If the police cannot attend by the end of the day, the items should be contained within the Academy's safe, safely disposed of, or a designated member of staff may deliver the items to the nearest police station having first contacted the police by an established method to inform them of their route and mode of transport.

Section H: Suspected Supplying of Drugs

If a student is found with a quantity of drugs that arouses suspicion of supplying drugs to others, the police will be informed and, unless there are exceptional circumstances, the Academy will consider permanent exclusion.

Section I: Suspected Supplying of Drugs outside of Academy Premises

If it is suspected that a student is involved in the supply of drugs outside of the Academy, the police will be contacted and parents/carers, and where applicable the child's social worker, will be informed as soon as is reasonably possible. If the student is supplying drugs to other students within the Academy, the Academy may consider permanent exclusion.

Section J: Searching

All searches conducted at Ansford Academy will be conducted according to the requirements set out in the DfE's [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) guidance and as outlined in Section M of the Academy's Behaviour Management Policy.

Section K: Disciplinary Responses

Ansford Academy holds a zero tolerance approach to the possession or supply of drugs and alcohol. The Academy will consider each incident individually and any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their choices and develop as individuals.

It may be necessary for the Headteacher, or another designated member of senior staff, to contact the police who may instruct the Academy to seize any further investigation work if a criminal offence has occurred at which point they will assume the investigation.

Disciplinary outcomes may include:

- Targeted intervention
- Referrals to local drug agencies
- Team Around the School [TAS] referral
- Behaviour Support Plan [BSP]
- Pastoral Support Plan [PSP]
- Loss of social time
- Community service

- Extended time in re-tracking [internal exclusion]
- Future searches or screening protocols
- Suspension
- Governors disciplinary panel
- Managed move
- Permanent exclusion

Section L: Roles and Responsibilities

School Governors should:

- Review this policy annually at the CCW Committee
- Respond to reports delivered by the Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion and the Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct at the CCW committee

The Headteacher should:

- Take overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy
- Hold overall responsibility for dealing with drug related incidents and associated consequences
- Ensure that all staff dealing with drug related incidents are adequately supported and trained
- Conduct communications with the media where this is appropriate

The Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct should:

- Monitor the implementation and effectiveness of this policy
- Review and update the policy taking account of new legislation and government guidance and using learning from the review of any recent incidents to improve procedures and practice
- Align, review, update and publish linked policies and additional guidance
- Ensure that the application of consequences for drug related incidents are aligned with the principles of this policy
- Maintain a record of all drug related incidents and their outcomes
- Review and analyse the data to identify any patterns in drug related incidents, assessing the quality and effectiveness of the school's response to drug related incidents and addressing any issues arising
- Report any drugs related incidents to SLT and governors as part of the half termly Behaviour Report

The Deputy Headteacher: Welfare and Inclusion (DSL) should:

- Report on the impact of any drugs related incidents to SLT and governors as part of the half- termly Safeguarding and Attendance Report.
- Align this policy with the Child Protection Policy
- Review and monitor the quality of the whole school drug education programme
- Support and evaluate the work the Head of PSHE in relation to this policy
- Maintain up to date signposting information for parents, carers and students
- Lead or support parent information sessions on these topics
- Use termly Safeguarding briefings to keep students informed about risks and how to manage them
- Use Safeguarding briefings in terms 1, 3 and 5 to inform students of the sanctions for possessing or supplying illegal or unauthorised drugs in school
- Ensure that the Safeguarding Team promptly triage the reported incidents of drug misuse, where the KCSIE threshold to indicate a Safeguarding concern are not met, to the relevant Head of Year
- Ensure that reported incidents of drug misuse that do meet the KCSIE threshold to indicate a Safeguarding concern are managed in line with statutory guidance

The Head of PSHE should:

- Ensure the development of a cohesive and well-planned Drug Education programme as part of the PSCHE planned curriculum and which is underpinned by the principles in this policy
- Liaise [when appropriate] with the Head of Science, the Head of RE and the Assistant Headteacher: Community and Conduct to ensure coherence in the planning of the Drug Education Programme
- Ensure careful planning of tutorial sessions which are part of the Drug Education curriculum
- Monitor the delivery of the PSCHE drug education programme
- Evaluate the programme, using staff and student feedback to review and develop the programme each year
- Ensure the provision of regular training for staff delivering the programme
- Lead or support parent information sessions on these topics

The Pastoral Team (Heads of Year and Pastoral Intervention Leaders) should:

- Respond promptly to any reported incidents of drug misuse
- Investigate reported incidents thoroughly, taking statements from those involved and any witnesses to the incident
- Inform parents/carers as soon as possible when issues of drug misuse arise and keep parents and carers informed as situations develop
- Apply consequences in accordance with this policy and the Behaviour Management Policy
- Signpost parents and carers to appropriate support
- Where appropriate, work with outside agencies such as the Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), the police, SDAS, Turning Point and children's services, completing any appropriate referrals for the students.

Appendix A

Incident Type 1	Incident Type 2	Incident Type 3	Incident Type 4
If students disclose that they are using drugs and want advice about drugs / alcohol or help to stop using.	If staff suspect or know that a student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol that leads to the disruption of their own learning or that of others.	If staff suspect or know that a student is in possession of drugs or alcohol.	If staff suspect or know that a student is giving or selling drugs on site.
Invite the student to speak with either the: Tutor Head of Year Appropriate adult	The student should be: Isolated in a separate room and monitored by a member of staff while another member of staff makes the appropriate contact for the student to leave the site. Upmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies or first aid needs. With consent a member of staff searches the student's outer clothing / bags.	With consent the student should be: Isolated in a separate room and monitored by a member of staff whilst another member of staff searches the student's outer clothing / bags. Without consent: Parent / carer or the police should be contacted.	With consent the student/s should be: Isolated in a separate room and monitored by a member of staff whilst another member of staff searches the outer clothing / bags of each student. Without consent: Parent / carer or the police should be contacted.
Staff are expected to: Discuss the student's situation and provide relevant advice and information. Encourage the student to engage with local drugs services. Record information using the Academy's electronic safeguarding software. Notify the student's social worker if applicable.	Staff are expected to: Contact a parent / carer and request them to collect the student. Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Notify the AHT Community and Conduct who will oversee the disciplinary strategy. Complete a Drugs Incident Report . Refer the student to the local drugs service. Notify the student's social worker if applicable.	Staff are expected to: Contact a parent / carer and request them to collect the student. Consider contacting the police. Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Notify the AHT Community and Conduct who will oversee and co-ordinate the disciplinary strategy. Complete a Drugs Incident Report . Refer the student to the local drugs service. Notify the student's social worker if applicable.	Staff are expected to: Contact a parent / carer and request them to collect the student. The police should be called. Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Notify the AHT Community and Conduct who will oversee and co-ordinate the disciplinary strategy. Complete a Drugs Incident Report . Refer the student to the local drugs service. Notify the student's social worker if applicable.