

FORT PITT THOMAS AVELING ACADEMIES TRUST



FPTA Academies

Drugs Education and the Misuse of Drugs Policy

Agreed by the Advisory Board/Last Amended: 8th June 2016

Up-date by DfE:

Next Review Date:

This is a policy, which takes into account the legal responsibilities as employers and occupants of school premises, and the guidance in the *DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools September 2012* and the *DfE Improving Behaviour and Attendance in Schools: Searching, screening and confiscation advice February 2014*.

All Trustees, governors and staff are committed to ensuring that FPTA Academies is a healthy organisation, free from the misuse of drugs and other substances. Illegal drugs should never be in school. Legal drugs are only allowed when they are medicines agreed with the relevant authority in school and parents for use in school

Aim: The policy aims to make clear the Trust's approach to the problem of drugs.

All staff:

All members of staff must know the school's procedures and seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support the policy and procedures.

Definition

Drugs which must never be in school include the following:

- cannabis;
- ecstasy;
- heroin;
- crack/cocaine
- alcohol;
- tobacco;
- solvents;
- legal highs (as defined by the Govt)

The following should not normally be in school including common ones such as:

- over the counter drugs; and
- prescribed drugs
(except those agreed by prior arrangement with the school and parents)

Drugs Education

Rationale:

The FPTA Trust is proud of its caring and hardworking ethos, an integral part of this being a responsibility for the general health of all the students and staff. The Trust, through its schools recognises it has a part to play in reducing the risks of misuse of drugs to its students since this can have a serious impact on health, well-being and academic achievement. It is, therefore, the school's responsibility to provide students and staff with adequate and up to date information concerning the effects and risks involved in taking drugs and other substances, enabling students to make informed choices about the use of drugs.

A teacher of drugs education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach which is crucial to this area of learning.

Education about drugs is not concerned merely with facts, but it also includes looking at attitudes in society, personal moral values and the social implications of drug abuse.

The definition of drugs is taken in its broadest sense and includes legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over-the-counter and prescribed medicines, and illegal drugs.

The drug education programme, which runs across all year groups, aims to:

- inform students about drugs and their effects;
- promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle;
- increase students' understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs;
- inform students about the course of action open to them if they or people they know become, or might become, involved in drugs activity;
- inform students about support and resources available in school and outside school.

Working with External Agencies:

Schools should work closely with a range of appropriate agencies in dealing with any drug-related issue and in developing the drug education programme.

All such agencies are to be given a copy of this policy before their work in the school begins.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Drug Education:

The delivery and content of drugs education should be monitored and evaluated annually. Monitoring methods include module evaluation by staff and students and lesson observation. The programme should then be reviewed and revised in response to such feedback.

Misuse of Drugs

The schools within the Trust do not condone the misuse of any substance, legal or illegal, which threatens the health or safety of any member of its community and it will respond to any drug-related incident within its boundaries. The boundaries are defined as follows:

- On or near school premises, within the school day - including school activities taking place during extended hours and during term-time or including school activities during the holidays.
- On school visits (supervised or not), residential and at school social events.

There is no legal requirement for any school to report incidents or offenders to the police, but the Head teacher reserves the right to do so if appropriate.

Although each drug related incident will be considered separately the Trust believe it is essential that parent, students and staff are clear about the normal sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows:

- a) a student who supplies any drugs or other solvents on the school premises will normally be permanently excluded for a first offence.

‘Supply’ includes supplying for money or free-of-charge.

In the case of the supply of a drug which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Head teacher will assess the seriousness of the incident before deciding whether to exclude permanently or for a fixed period.

Before making a decision on exclusion the Head teacher will ensure that a satisfactory investigation has been carried out.

- b) a student who has any illegal drug in his/her possession will normally be excluded for a fixed period **for a first offence**, to be determined by the Head teacher after considering all the circumstances of the case.

- c) A student perceived to be under the influence will normally have parents contacted and a proportionate consequence applied.

The Head teacher will also determine what counselling needs to be provided and/or other action needs to be taken during or after the exclusion.

For a **second offence** the Head teacher will determine whether a further fixed- term exclusion is appropriate, or whether it is appropriate to exclude permanently. In coming to a decision the Head teacher will take into account any medical/police/social service/ drug adviser reports that may be available, and consider whether further counselling is appropriate.

The Head teacher will refer to the ***DfE statutory guidance, school behaviour and attendance: Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England 2012 and subsequent updates.***

Policy Dissemination:

Copies of this Policy and subsequent procedures are kept on the school website and are available to parents on request.

All schools will have their own procedures for reporting and dealing with drug related incidents agreed with their local governing body. This Policy and the aforementioned procedures will be available on their website and in hard copy by request.

Monitoring and Evaluation of the Policy:

This Policy is reviewed every two years in consultation with staff, students, parents, governors and trustees and in the light of any incident, which occurs in relation to drugs.