

# **FRIARS ACADEMY**

## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

## Statement of Policy

Friars Academy does not condone either the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.

The School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.

Friars Academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the ethos of the school will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward. (We recognise that some of our pupils need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these.)

## Policy Aims

We believe and support the following educational aims:

- To provide accurate information about drugs, alcohol and substances
- To increase understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience use of any or all of the above
- To widen understanding about related health & social issues eg, sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- To seek to minimize the risks that users and potential users face
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

## How These Aims Will Be Met

These aims will be fulfilled through PSHCE, Lifeskills and Citizenship programmes and through aspects of the pupil's experiences in the taught curriculum delivered for example through Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will be developed in other parts of the teaching programme, in the informal curriculum, through extra curricular activities and through assemblies.

## The Role Of Outside Agencies

Friars Academy actively co-operates with other agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of alcohol and substance use and misuse.

## How Parents/Carers and Governors Are Involved

The Head Teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, involving as appropriate the Governing Body, parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies. Key Stage Leaders have general responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy via assemblies, outside agencies, meetings with parents/carers.

## Review and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated annually to identify whether or not the aims are being met.

## Action To Be Taken

The Head Teacher must be informed of instances involving drugs, alcohol and substance misuse or any one or all three found on pupils. In the case of alcohol or substances, there may follow a discussion between staff members who know the pupil well, the following actions may be taken:-

- Parents/carers will usually be informed (unless this would jeopardise pupil safety), at the earliest opportunity by the Head Teacher. The School and parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

- The pupil would be isolated.
- If the young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate key stage leader should be informed.
- There is no legal obligation to inform the police, although they may be able to give relevant support and advice.
- The School will consider each alcohol/substance incident individually and recognizes that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents.
- The School will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take.
- The School seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, other school members and the local community.
- If a pupil is caught on the school premises in possession of drugs, they would be isolated.

## **Drugs**

The School operates a zero tolerance approach to drugs.

If it is proved that a pupil is in possession of and/or offering to supply or give an illegal drug to a pupil(s) on school premises, this could lead to (a fixed term or permanent) exclusion. Each incident would be considered individually.

Where a criminal offence may have taken place, the School will inform the police.

Where staff discover drugs, alcohol, substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should:-

- Remove the substance from where it was discovered, in the presence of a witness. Record the time, place and circumstances of the substance being transferred into the teacher's possession.
- Record the approximate size and appearance, without closer investigation.
- Have the recordings countersigned by a witness.
- Take the substance immediately to a member of the Leadership Team, who will forward it to the Head Teacher. They must not keep the substance on their person or put it in a place of safe keeping.
- In the presence of a member of the Leadership Team, the substance should be placed in a suitable sealed container. The two witnesses should sign and date the package. An official report should be completed, recording the time, date and circumstances of the findings.
- The Head Teacher or member of the Leadership Team should arrange for the Police to remove the substance from the premises or dispose of it in an appropriate way.
- In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with the substance use, especially needles and syringes, only adults should be allowed to handle these items, and should do so with extreme care. Rubber gloves must be worn to avoid any possible contact with fluid contamination on the needles or syringes. The school must ensure that such materials are placed in a secure and rigid container to await collection by the appropriate service.

## **Warning Signs That May Indicate Drug Misuse By An Individual**

NB – The following signs alone are not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse – many of them are a normal part of adolescence:-

- Changes in attendance at the School
- Being unwilling to take part in the activities the student has previously shown enthusiasm for
- Unusual outbreaks of temper
- Marked mood swings
- Unusual restlessness or irritability
- Excessive tiredness
- Sore or rashes on the mouth or nose

- Unusual lack of appetite
- Unaccounted for increased amounts of money
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### **Warning Signs Of Drug Misuse Occuring Within A Group**

- Regular absence of the group on certain days
- Group avoidance of other students
- Being the subject of rumours about drug abuse
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Stealing
- Use of drug takers slang
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances
- Associating with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group.

### **Objects That May Indicate Drug Misuse**

- Foil container or cup shapes made from foil (perhaps discoloured by heat)
- Metal tins
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Pill boxes
- Plastic, cellophane or metal foil wrappers
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Sugar lumps
- Syringes and needles
- Cigarette papers and lighters
- Shredded cigarettes, home rolled cigarettes.

### **Parents/Carers and Drug Incidents**

- In any incident involving illegal or unauthorised drugs, the School will contact the parent/carers and explain the procedure to be followed and the consequences if the investigation proves that the pupil was in possession of and/or offered to supply or give an illegal drug to pupil(s).
- Where the School suspects that this might put the young person's safety at risk then they should exercise caution. The designated child protection officer of the School should be consulted.
- Parents/carers should be encouraged to approach the School if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs and their child.
- The School may advise parents/carers on the sources of help for their child.
- When dealing with parents/carers under the influence of drugs on the school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere. The focus is on the well being of the child.
- Police may be called should a parent/carers become violent or abusive.



## Record of Incident Involving An Unauthorised Drug

Drug or paraphernalia found <b>ON</b> Academy premises		Pupil disclosure of drug use	
Emergency/Intoxication		Disclosure of parent/care drug misuse	
Pupil in possession of an unauthorized drug		Parent/carer express concern	
Pupil supplying unauthorized drug on Academy premises		Incident occurring <b>OFF</b> Academy premises	

<b>Name of Pupil</b>	<b>Form</b>
<b>Time of Incident</b>	<b>Date of Incident</b>

<b>First Aid Required Yes/No</b>		<b>Emergency Services Called (Yes/No)</b>	
<b>Given By:</b>			

<b>Drug involved (if known)</b>	<b>Drug removed (Yes/No)</b>	
<b>Disposal arranged (give details)</b>		

<b>Senior Staff involved</b>	(Designated CP Team member informed) Yes/No Who?
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**Witness / Other students involved:**

**Name of parent/carer informed:**

**Informed by:**

**Brief description of incident** (including any physical symptoms)

**Other action taken** (eg, connexions or other agency involved, Educational Psychologist report requested, case conference called, pupils/staff informed, sanction imposed, LEA/GP/Police consulted)