

Drug Education Policy

1. Name of Trust: The Farnborough Academy

Date of Policy: Summer 2018

Review date: Summer 2020

2. Introduction:

As part of our commitment to the Drug Strategy 2010 Reducing demand, restricting supply building recovery: supporting people to live a drug free life we acknowledge the part we can play as a school through early identification, intervention and preventative education. We have used the current DfE/ACPO Drugs Advice For Schools 2012 to guide the development of our policy and practice, taking account of the additional practice guidance supplied in the previous Drugs Guidance for Schools 2004 as recommended by DfE and Mentor UK who have been commissioned by DfE to provide tools for developing this policy and our practice.

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of its pupils, The Farnborough Academy's pro-active stance, believes that Drug Education is a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every pupil.

It has been written in line with the recommendations made by the DfES (ref.2,3), Mentor UK and the LEA (ref.6). It is based on the recommendations of the DfE document Drugs Advice For Schools 2012

3. Context:

Factual elements of Drug Education forms a part of the statutory order for National Curriculum Science and the contextual skills, required to manage risk, are contained within the PSHE association PSHE framework in line with the Ofsted SMSC inspection schedules. It will be provided in the broader context of PSCHE. This provision will be supported by the Farnborough Academy's commitment to a healthy environment in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances) by pupils, staff or visitors, nor the illegal supply of these substances is permitted.

4. Definition and Boundaries:

This policy encompasses all legal drugs (including new psychoactive substances not yet covered by the misuse of drugs act, nicotine products, e-cigarettes, vaping devices and shisha, alcohol and tobacco); all illegal drugs; volatile substances and over-the-counter and prescription medicines. In this policy the word 'DRUGS' refers to all the above.

The policy, in line with all other rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within the school boundaries but also on all school visits, trips and residentials, including those made outside normal school hours. It will also be upheld on all school buses and will be applied to the immediate vicinity of the school, particularly outside the school gate.

5. Aims:

Through the curriculum and a supportive school ethos, we aim to:

- provide accurate information about all legal drugs (including alcohol and tobacco); all illegal drugs; volatile substances and over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs
- explore attitudes towards drug use and misuse
- develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions
- identify sources of personal support.

6. Content:

The Farnborough Academy appreciates the valuable contribution of outside providers to the curriculum but recognises that their contribution alone does not constitute a complete drug education programme. We reserve the right to ensure that the contributions made by visitors to the classroom reflect our own philosophy and approach to the subject. In any case we will ensure that all external provision is planned within our curriculum planning and underpinned by data.

7. Teaching Methods:

“Education is one of the most effective ways of preventing drug and alcohol misuse. The drug strategy outlines the need for young people to have access to universal drug and alcohol education”

It should:

- provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol via drug education
- be part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education
- taught by staff who have access to high quality training and support.” *Drug Advice for Schools DfE 2012*

Effective drug education requires pupils to develop their understanding of drugs issues and appropriate skills and attitudes to assist them in making informed decisions. Teaching methods adopted in the classroom offer a rich variety of opportunities for active learning and include debating issues, group discussions and role-play. Due to the sensitive and sometimes controversial nature of the subject, ground rules will be negotiated and adopted.

At The Farnborough Academy, Drug Education forms part of the Bright Days. Each year group has a day which focuses on ‘Health Education’. Drugs and the effects of drugs are included in this particular session. The content of these days is age appropriate. Alongside the Bright Days, Drug Education is also taught via our Form Time Learning programme. As with the Bright Days, this content is age appropriate and is delivered at both KS3 and KS4.

8. Vulnerable pupils:

“Some young people are more at risk of developing substance misuse problems than others. Areas of vulnerability can include:

- those who have parents with substance misuse problems,
- those with mental health problems
- those who truant or are excluded from school.

Such groups of young people at risk require a more targeted approach to help prevent drug or alcohol misuse” *Drug Advice for Schools DfE 2012*

We make a commitment to early intervention for students who raise concerns in relation to substances in order to forestall further problems and retain their inclusion in education – thereby improving their outcomes in the future.

9. The School Environment:

The Farnborough Academy will not permit the use, possession or supply of drugs (other than prescribed or pre-arranged medicines) on any of the school premises.

The Farnborough Academy supports changes in the law which state that smoking or use of vaping devices is prohibited on any part of the school premises. No alcohol is permitted in school hours on the school premises except in agreed circumstances within the law and with the knowledge and consent of the Head teacher.

Anyone with concerns about drug related issues or any other personal or emotional concerns will be supported in the usual way which could involve:

- CGL Drug and Alcohol Worker for the school (City)
- Explore Family (for family use concerns)
- The Targeted Support team in the county
- Tutors
- Head of Years
- Trained counsellors
- Mentor staff
- School Nurse
- New Leaf

Information on the various agencies that provide help and support on drug related issues can be found on display boards around the academy and will be covered as part of the KS3 curriculum. Parents can access this information through an appointment with the school nurse.

10. Storage and Administration of Medicines:

The Farnborough Academy acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child’s health and should provide us with information about their child’s medical condition when appropriate. There is no legal duty, which requires teachers to administer medication; this is a voluntary role and will only be called upon in exceptional circumstances. Where exceptional circumstances exist for long-term needs, a contract will be agreed between the school and the parent or carer and records kept appropriately. Where necessary, staff will receive training on specific medical conditions.

Within The Farnborough Academy the Pastoral Support Team and First Aid staff have agreed to accept responsibility for administering medication to pupils with known medical needs as well as for its safe storage and the keeping of appropriate records. Medication should be handed in at the office and a form completed at the earliest opportunity. Medication will be administered from the office as agreed with parents / carers. The medication is then stored in a lockable cabinet and administered as accordingly.

Other than an inhaler, no pupil should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored in either the refrigerator or the labelled secure cupboard in the office. The medicines policy is based on 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs' DFEE 1996 (ref.8). Pupils with known long-term medical needs are identified in the Special Needs register.

11. Needles / Syringes:

If anyone finds a needle or syringe on the school grounds they must not touch it or let anyone else touch it. They should report it immediately to a member of staff, who will organise its removal and disposal via the site manager.

Needles or syringes found on school premises will be placed in a sturdy, secure container (for example, a tin with lid), using gloves. Softdrink cans or plastic bottles will not be used. Used needles and syringes will not be disposed of in domestic waste.

12. Drug Related Incidents:

The Farnborough Academy will consider each incident individually, recognising that a variety of responses will be necessary to manage such incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action taken and will seek to balance the interests of the persons involved with other school members and the local community. Any sanctions enforced will be consistent with existing school rules relating to behaviour, discipline, equal opportunities and exclusions; and will reflect the seriousness of the incident. After immediate medical needs have been addressed the nature and circumstances of any incident will be established and assessment made of the needs of the pupils involved. We recognise that any pupil misusing drugs may be in need of our support for an extended period of time or in exceptional circumstances from an appropriate outside agency.

Please note that under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

'It is an offence for the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug.'

General advice on what to do when there is a drug-related incident can be found in Appendix 2.

All pupils and parents have been made aware of the school's policy.

13. Exclusions:

Further details can be found in 'Managing and Making Policy for drug related incidents in schools' which states that every drug situation should be carefully assessed to ensure that appropriate and serious attention is given to incidents which pose a threat to the health and safety of pupils. At the same time there is a requirement for the Farnborough Academy to take a firm moral stance for the benefit of all pupils and the wider community. This is reflected within the school's exclusion policy. Any child giving concerns about drug or alcohol use or parental use, with or without an incident being noted will automatically be referred as an alternative to or in addition to any fixed term exclusion. This is in line with the advice given by ACPO (association of chief police officers) Nottingham City Council, DfE and Mentor UK. Permanent exclusion or managed moves will only be used as a last resort after all other effective avenues have been followed and failed. When such last resorts are used the student will always be attached to CGL Drug and Alcohol worker to ensure a protected transition and minimise escalation during this particularly risky time.

Avoiding Labelling and stereotyping should be taken to avoid unwittingly perpetuating the unwanted behaviour by making a name stick. Research shows that labelling, along with exclusion, is the strongest predictor of an escalation of drug use. Staff should carefully avoid labelling and efforts should be made to guard against other pupils doing it.

14. Child Protection:

All people contributing to Drugs Education within the Farnborough Academy need to be aware that effective Drug Education can lead to disclosure of a child protection issue. If this is the case The Farnborough Academy's Child Protection policy must be followed.

15. Confidentiality/Information Sharing:

Although it is important to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of any incident or disclosure, pupils will be made aware that complete confidentiality cannot be guaranteed. This will help to retain the trust of pupils and parents/carers and will ensure that the sharing of appropriate information is kept to a minimum. (See Appendix 1). However the following points need to be stressed

- Pupils and parents need to be aware that teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality.
- Health Professionals; such as the school nurse are bound by their professional codes of conduct to maintain confidentiality.
- It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that schools should be in the position of having to handle information without parental knowledge. Where younger pupils are involved this will be ground for serious concern and child protection issues should be addressed.

16. Searches:

It is now legal for teachers to search pupils and their possessions when they believe the young person may be in possession of an object or substance that poses a threat to their safety, this includes drugs and alcohol. Searches will usually be carried out in line with guidance and recommended procedures by the SLT, with a witness present.

17. Responding to the Media:

As drug-related incidents are likely to generate media interest, all members of staff have been advised not to respond to journalists' questions, but to refer the press in whatever form to the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher may wish to make a considered response after seeking assistance from the local authority Press Office.

18. Roles and Responsibilities:

The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation; for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, L.A. and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the school of a Drugs Co-ordinator, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.

The Head Teacher will ensure that all staff are adequately supported and trained.

19. Roles and Responsibilities:

This policy will be monitored regularly and evaluated every two years. Any suggested amendments will be taken into consideration and adopted where appropriate.

20. References:

1. Circular 4/95, Drug Prevention & Schools, 1995, DFES London
2. Protecting young people - Good practice in drug education in schools and the youth service, 1998, DFES, London
3. Drugs Education Curriculum Guidelines for Schools, 1995, Nottinghamshire County Council
4. Supporting Pupils With Medical Needs, 1996, DFES, London

Appendix 1:

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Making sure that pupils and parents or carers are aware of the school's confidentiality policy and how it works in practice.
- Reassuring pupils that their best interests will be maintained.
- Encouraging pupils to talk to their parents or carers and giving them support to do so.
- Ensuring that pupils know that teachers cannot offer unconditional confidentiality.
- Reassuring pupils that, if confidentiality has to be broken, they will be informed first and then supported as appropriate.
- If there is any possibility of abuse, follow the child protection procedure.
- Make sure that pupils are informed of sources of confidential help, for example, school nurse, counsellor, GP or local young person's advice service i.e. Health centres.
- Use ground rules in lessons.

Appendix 2:

INTERVENTION FLOWCHART: DRUG AND ALCOHOL CONCERNS

Immediate actions

1. Ensure medical / emergency actions are taken re young person and others.
2. Contact the person responsible for taking forward drug and alcohol concerns – Achievement Manager (Behaviour)
3. If no immediate medical intervention required, isolate young person, conduct initial search to remove substance.
4. Bag, tag and secure evidence with a witness present.
5. Contact parent or appropriate adult (unless it is not safe or might compromise a police investigation).

Headteacher signature.....

Governor signature.....

Date