

DRUGS POLICY

ACET Senior Academies – Swinton Academy

March 2024

Review March 2026

The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools - Advice for local authorities, headteachers, academies staff and governing bodies 2012

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-academies>

Our academies actively seek to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the academies take a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our drugs policy.

The academy acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. 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.

This policy also takes account of the following law, guidance and frameworks:

Section 8 of the misuse of drugs act 1971 advises schools to:

- have an actively implemented school drug policy, in line with department for children, schools and family's guidance
- make sure that the drug policies understood by students, parents/carers, staff and the whole school community
- maintain vigilance over school premises and grounds
- keep a record of all drug incidents, and
- follow any advice from the local police

Drugs: guidance for schools (DfES, September 2012) states that all schools should have agreed a range of responses and procedures for managing drug-related incidents, which are understood by all **members of the academy community and documented within the drug policy.**

ACET plays a crucial role in educating students about drugs, to help reduce harm from drugs and help students make informed and healthy decisions about drugs. This policy aims to bring about a whole academy approach to drug related issues. It will help staff to manage incidents with confidence, consistency and in the best interest of all those involved.

The purpose of this policy is therefore to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities for ACET academies
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others working in ACET
- Clarify the ACET approach to drugs for all Staff, Students, Governors, Parents/Carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on academy premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of ACET
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

- Reinforce the role of all academies within the trust in contributing to local and national strategies.

The possession, misuse, or supply of these drugs within the academy boundaries is unacceptable. However, in any incident involving drugs priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. The major concern for ACET in managing drugs is the health and safety of the academy community and meeting the pastoral needs of students.

Education and Prevention

We believe that accurate knowledge for young people is key, so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through our tutor time and assembly programme.

We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For the purpose of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicine
- Drugs paraphernalia- items such as canisters, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes

Drugs on academy premises

The legal definition of academy premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, off site provision or any venue managed by the academy at the time e.g., premises of an academy trip or visit and when the academy is deemed to be in loco parentis.

This policy applies to all academy staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the academy.

Medicines

The academy has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Please refer to our 'Medicines in the Academy Policy'

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to academy premises or consumed during the course of an academy day. Any adult, staff member, student, parent/carer and visitor under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole academy.

Parents/carers will be asked to collect their children from the academy and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Smoking

Academy premises are a no smoking sites at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to the academy smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on academies premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the academy premises will result in a suspension. This also applies to “vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Illegal drugs and “psychoactive substances”

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on academy premises. Bringing any such items onto academy premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on academy premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy and may lead to a sanction being given.

Solvents

The academy will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto academy premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy and may lead to a sanction being given.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs or related paraphernalia on academy premises
- Possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Supply of drugs on academy premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents/carers, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the academy premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider academy community.

Permanent Exclusion from the academy is not an automatic response to a drug incident but will be considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain in the academy would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the academy

Senior leaders will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents.

Staff with key responsibility for drugs:

The principal will have responsibility for drug related incidents and all members of staff will refer incidents to him/her. In the Principal's absence the Vice Principal should be informed. The Personal development lead is line managed by the Leadership Team Link member who therefore oversees the planning and coordination of drugs education. They will also work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and will offer sources of support and liaise with outside agencies.

Each ACET academy will have a specified member of staff who has overall responsibility for the coordination of the drugs education programme in their respective academy, but individual class teachers will liaise closely with them to ensure that the programme is up to date and meets the needs of the students and that careful monitoring and evaluation of the quality of teaching takes place.

All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse Outside the Academies Premises

In line with Behaviour in Schools Advice for headteachers and academy staff (September 2022) the academy may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside of school when students are:

- taking part in any academy organised or academy related activity or
- travelling to or from the academy or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the academy.

The academy may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the academy.

Individuals in Possession of Drugs

If any student or adult on academy premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the academy will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible. They will not be stored. Parents/Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Aquarius, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

The Academy will always seek to work with parents/carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection Policy for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection Policy and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our academy the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the academy feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in the academy (Counsellor, School Nurse, Year Teams or a member of the academy safeguarding team)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Working with the Police

Drugs Education

Drugs education is a main component of drug prevention. Drug prevention aims to minimise the number of young people engaging in drug use; delay the onset of first use; reduce the harm caused by drugs; and enable those who have concerns about drugs to seek help.

The aim of drug education is to provide opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

Drug education is taught via the PSHE programme and Science lessons, and schemes of work reflect the non-statutory and statutory health and wellbeing 2020 framework for PSHE at all Key Stages, the statutory Citizenship programme of study and the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order.

This is the basis of what will be covered in each Key Stage:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Foundation stage: | National Curriculum supports children in developing an understanding of what keeps them healthy and safe. |
| KS2 | Students build a knowledge and understanding of drugs relevant to their developmental age. They learn skills to recognise and manage risk and resist pressures. They consider ways to keep themselves and others safe and how to seek help and advice. |
| KS3 | Students learn more about the effects and laws referring to drugs. Smoking and vaping. They learn the physical and psychological risks. They learn the skills to recognise and manage risk and to resist pressures. They continue to develop the skills to make choices for a healthy lifestyle and learn about where to go for help and advice. |

Confidentiality

Staff cannot and should not promise confidentiality. Boundaries of the academy's confidentiality policy will be made clear to students before the student has the chance to perhaps disclose information that they would rather not be passed on. If a student requests that a member of staff does not disclose some sensitive information the request should be honoured unless it is unavoidable in relation to:

- Child protection (students' safety is under threat or a life is in danger)
- Co-operating with a police investigation
- Referral to external services
- A legal obligation
- There is a belief that a criminal offence has been committed

If sensitive information needs to be passed on, we will try to secure the student's permission or at least inform the student, if at all possible, before the information has to be shared with others and try to explain why it has to be shared.

If staff are in any doubt regarding whether an issue needs to be passed on, they must consult the appropriate member of their Leadership Team with responsibility for Child Protection.

Right to Search

In line with Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for Schools 2022, the staff reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team of the same sex and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. (See ACET Searching, Confiscation and Reasonable Use of Force Policy).

The Academy works closely with the Police. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items.

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

The policy will be reviewed annually at the end of the academic year by the post holder responsible for PSHE where minor updates will take place e.g., curriculum changes as a result of student needs analysis and reviews; help and advice contact detail changes.

Major reviews will take place biannually unless circumstances dictate otherwise e.g., New DfE guidance is brought out, in which case the policy will be updated in the light of it, to reflect good practice.

The academy prospectus/website will make parents / carers, students, and staff aware of the availability of the drugs policy. Personal copies, if required, will be available from the reception of any ACET partner academy. A copy of the policy will be held and stored by the Principal, Personal

Development Lead, the Site Manager, and the Governor with responsibility for drug education. External agencies involved in consultation will be given the option of having their own copy. New staff will be made aware of the policy and its contents, as appropriate, by their line manager.

This policy links to other policies within the academy. They include:

- The Medicines in School's policy (Storage and accessing medicines protocol)
- Risk Assessment Guidance (Drug incidents and care of medicines on academy educational visits)
- Behaviour and Reward Policy (drug related incidents)
- Health and Safety Policy (purchase/storage of solvents, hazardous chemicals and medicines)
- Safeguarding, Child Protection and Confidentiality Policy (drug related incidents)
- PSHE /RSHE policy
- Searching, Confiscation & the Use of Reasonable Use of Force

The role of the Governors

ACET has a Governor with specific responsibility for the provision of drug education. Governors will play a key role in the development of the drug policy as part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the trust.

Key Responsibilities:

Principal with responsibilities for drug related issues: James Graham

Executive Principal with responsibilities for drug related issues: Rebecca Hibberd

Assistant Vice Principal with responsibilities for Child Protection: Cheryl Barquero

Governor with responsibilities relating to the provision of Personal Development: Louise Miller

Personal Development Lead: Sarah Rhodes

Police Community Liaison Officer: South Yorkshire Police

Appendix

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 3907 8480

Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: info@coramclc.org.uk

Website: <https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Website: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>

Drink line - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug wise is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service.

Website: <https://www.drugwise.org.uk>

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600
Email: frank@talktofrank.com;
Website: www.talktofrank.com

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762.

Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

