

LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

Drugs Policy

13/10/2015

Version Control

Review Date	Version number	Reviewer/Owner (post holder)	Approved by (Committee)	Signature

Rationale:

It is the aim of Lydiard Park Academy to prepare our pupils for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their lives, and this includes enabling them to take their place in a world where a wide range of drugs exists.

For this reason, all drugs need appropriate, responsible care and management. In order to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition and Terminology:

We define a **drug** as being:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”.

Throughout this policy **drug** refers to:

- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and “poppers”
- All illegal drugs
 - This includes cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, amphetamines, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
- Prescribed medicines – including Ritalin, tranquillisers and anti-depressants
- Over the counter medicines

We define **drug** misuse to be:

“...the taking of a substance which harms or threatens to harm the physical or mental health or social well-being of an individual, or of other individuals, or society at large, or which is illegal”.

Aim:

The Academy has developed this policy to ensure that the whole Academy community will have knowledge of drug related issues and how the Academy will provide education and intervention around these issues.

Objectives:

This policy outlines how this Academy community will ensure that:

- Pupils in the Academy receive an education that enables them to grow up confidently, knowledgeably, competently and safely in a drug using world
- Pupils get consistent messages about living a healthy lifestyle which includes physical, emotional and mental health
- Pupils are consulted on the drug education provision so that it remains relevant to their needs
- Staff and pupils are able to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects
- Pupils have the knowledge, understanding and skills to make informed choices
- All drug related issues are treated with appropriate and responsible care and management

- Drug related incidents are addressed throughout the Academy in a consistent manner
- All staff, pupils and parents are aware of the Academy's legal and statutory obligations, including those around safeguarding children (child protection)
- All staff have access to training and support that enables them to contribute to education on drug issues
- All staff, pupils and parents have access to information on local services that support young people and families.

Role of the Academy Drug Co-ordinator/Staff Responsibility:

It is acknowledged that the Academy has an important role to play in keeping pupils safe and that for many children and young people engagement and achievement within school is a major protective factor from problematic drug use.

The Academy has a member of staff who is designated Academy Drug Co-ordinator. The main function of the Academy Drug Co-ordinator is to take lead responsibility for managing drug related situations and incidents, and liaising with the Principal and Governors on management of incidents. (Other responsibilities may include co-ordinating in-service drug training, keeping staff up to date with developments in the field, helping to choose and purchase suitable drug education resources in liaison with the PSHE Co-ordinator).

Role of Parents/Carers:

The importance of the role of parents is fully recognised, and we aim to consider their views and wishes carefully. We aim to ensure that parents are aware of how we deal with drug issues, including drug education. Parents are welcome to come to the Academy and talk about any concerns or questions they have as part of our open door ethos.

Education:

The aims of drug education are to:

Increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about:

- The short and long term risks of drugs and drug use
- The rules and laws relating to drugs
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
- The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

Develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy including:

- Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
- Communicating effectively
- Resisting pressures
- Finding information, help and advice
- Devising problem solving and coping strategies
- Developing self awareness and self esteem.

Enable pupils to explore their own and other people's attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and other influences.

The Academy delivers drug education through:

- PSHE (Personal/Well-being) sessions as part of a spiral curriculum from Year 7 – Year 11/Year 13
- A range of teaching methods, including small group work, discussion, research and project work and drama
- Science lessons
- School Nurse input
- External visitors i.e. Police, ex-users, family members of drug users
- Peer mentoring scheme – in school or externally facilitated.

Our drug education will be taught in the following ways:-

- As part of a spiral programme of PSHE it will build on concepts that the pupils already know and understand. It will link with work on safety, relationships and communication skills
- It will use language appropriate to their age, readiness, culture, ethnicity and vulnerability
- It will be relevant to the backgrounds, cultures, ethnicity and needs of our pupils and will focus on the drug use and related issues most relevant to our pupils
- It will focus on relevant situations and the subsequent emotions that influence choice, thinking skills, especially risk assessment and problem solving and interpersonal skills, especially assertiveness
- It will offer accurate, credible sources of information, rather than sensationalised information
- It will ensure that all pupils, regardless of background and ability, can equally access the programmes of work.

Student Welfare and Support:

It is the guiding principle of the Academy that:

“The welfare of the pupils and their peers is paramount”

It is recognised that problems with drug use can affect any of our children and young people and may include:

- Accidental exposure to a substance or drug equipment (e.g. discarded needles)
- Parental or sibling drug misuse – it is recognised that drug misuse within the family can have a major impact on a child or young person
- Experimental or recreational use of a drug leading to problems such as accidents or assaults while under the influence, becoming involved with an older drug using group
- Developing a dependency on a drug, either physical or psychological
- Health related problems, either immediate such as collapse or unconsciousness, or longer term such as effects on breathing
- Mental and emotional health problems, including depression and anxiety
- Exclusion from their peer group, negative effects on relationships and friendships
- Difficulties with behaviour at school leading to exclusion
- Involvement in criminality and/or anti-social behaviour.

A young person's own drug use can be:

- The main cause for concern
- A symptom of a deeper more complex difficulty
- One of a number of inter-related issues or concerns.

Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. This will include offering support through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress. Interventions will be considered if the Academy feels that any pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own, their parents or other members of their household. Such interventions could include consultation with parents and other agencies, possible case conference and subsequent referral to services that can provide early interventions either within the school setting or externally.

Vulnerable Young People:

The school recognises that young people having difficulties in their lives are more likely to begin drug use at an early age, more likely to become involved in using or supplying drugs, and more likely to be in households where parents/carers have drug problems.

Risk factors for young people include:

- Being looked after/in care
- Chaotic home environment
- Unstable accommodation or homelessness
- Parents/carers or siblings have drug problems and/or mental health problems
- Behavioural disorders
- School truants/refusers
- Exclusion from school
- Traumatic experiences such as abuse, neglect, bereavement, loss and family break-up
- Exploited through prostitution
- In contact with mental health and criminal justice systems
- Friendships with anti-social or older peers

Pupils living with associated risk factors will receive on going support through the Academy's pastoral care system. Their welfare will be monitored regularly, and the Academy will be represented whenever possible at any multi-agency meetings, such as Child Protection conferences.

Confidentiality:

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not be disclosed to anyone else unless appropriate. If a pupil discloses that they are using a drug without medical or parental authorisation, the safety of the young person will be the priority. Action will be taken to promote the welfare of the pupil which may include one-to-one drug education, sharing information with parents, the school nurse and other external services.

Disclosure of parental drug use will be treated sensitively, with consideration given to the parent's confidentiality and Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) procedures.

Pupils with Medical Needs in the Academy or offsite activity:

See Medical Conditions Policy.

First Aid Procedures:

Any pupil assessed to be under the influence of a substance will be closely monitored and be given first aid/medical intervention where necessary.

Management of drug misuse on a school trip:

This policy will be followed in the event of any substance misuse whilst on a school trip and parents **will be** expected to collect the pupil immediately from the trip. Any such behaviour will be treated extremely seriously by the Academy and may result in a fixed term or permanent exclusion.

Parents under the influence:

A parent attending the Academy under the influence should be regarded as a Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) concern, and appropriate action to safeguard the young person should be taken if necessary. This may include:

- Arranging for another parent or named contact known to the pupil to look after the pupil
- Contact Police to report the incident if the parent is abusive, aggressive or threatening to the pupil, staff or other members of the Academy
- Designated Safeguarding Lead to contact Social Services and make referral if appropriate
- Arranging an appointment for the parent to meet with Academy staff to discuss concerns and strategies for any future incidents.

The safety of the pupil is paramount, and staff must follow the Academy's Safeguarding Children (Child Protection) Policy and Procedures.

Use of Academy Premises for Illegal Drug Taking:

The Academy recognises that it has a legal responsibility to ensure that it does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the consumption or supply of illegal drugs. Wherever possible appropriate action will be taken, which may include reporting such incidents to the police.

The Academy will liaise with the police and co-operate fully if the Police decide to investigate further incidents where the premises are thought to be used for drug taking.

Responses to Drug related incidents:

Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve any difficulties.

We have a range of professional colleagues who can give/obtain advice, support and information in drug related situations.

These may include:

- The Academy Drug's Co-ordinator
- The school nurse
- The Neighbourhood Policing Team
- Local Drug and Alcohol agencies and counselling services including UTurn, ask FRANK and Mentor UK.

These colleagues can provide guidance and information, and may be able to help with a needs assessment to support us in developing an appropriate response. This may be through the Early Help Record route.

The pupils will always be told when information is being passed on in accordance with the Academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Our aim is to enable all pupils to fulfil their potential. We will work with the pupil, their parents and colleagues from other agencies to remove barriers to achievement and resolve any difficulties that exist. Drug related situations will be considered alongside other circumstances in the young person's life and not in isolation. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, we will inform parents at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together to support the pupil and resolve any difficulties. Isolated drug issues could well lead to either a Fixed Term or Permanent Exclusion. However, the supply of drugs or persistent drug related issues would almost certainly lead to Permanent Exclusion and the Police would be informed.

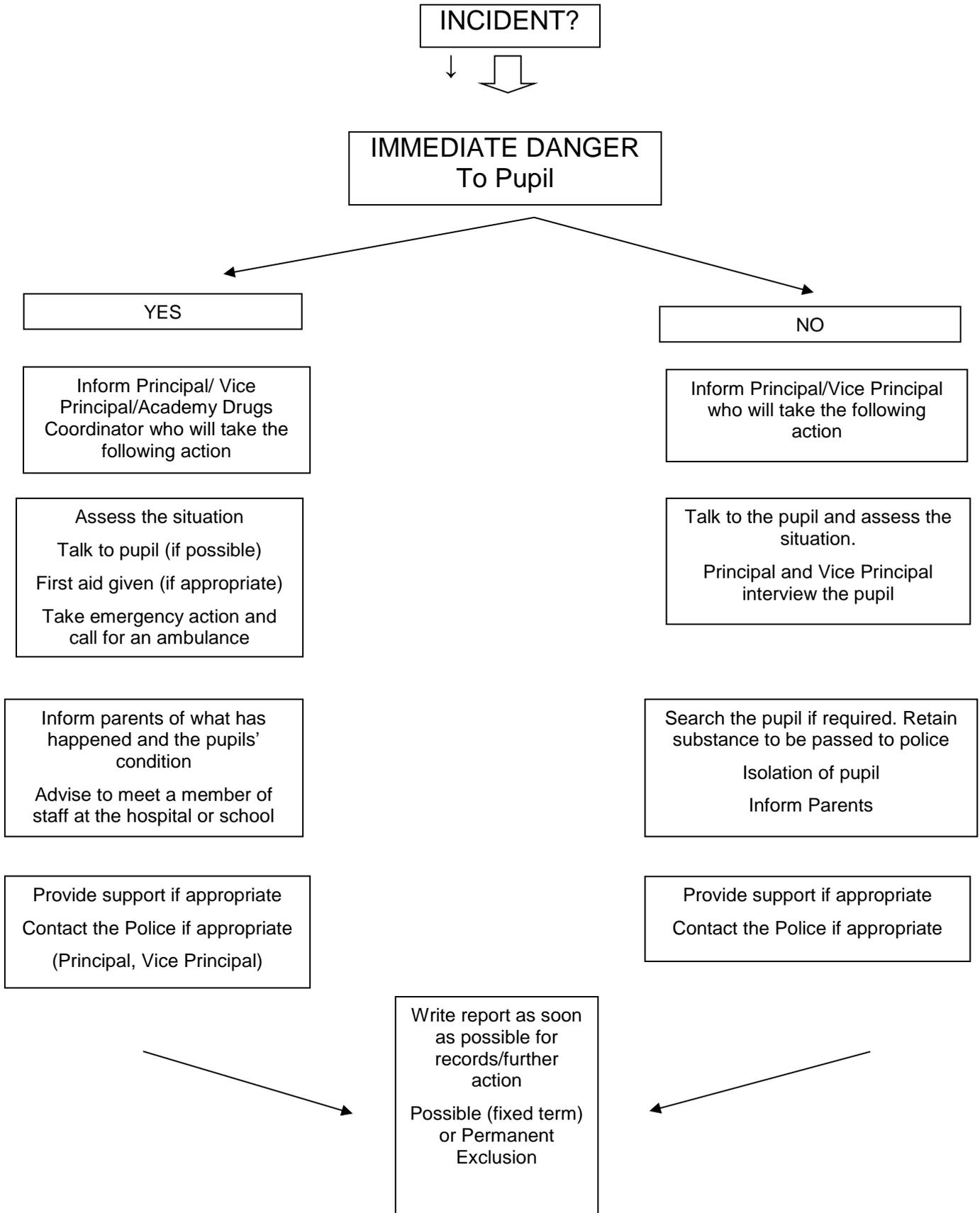
If staff are concerned that a pupil may be having problems due to ongoing drug use:

- Observe the pupil's behaviour
- Share your concerns with the Principal, Vice Principals and Academy Drugs Coordinator
- Record your concerns and observations in writing on the Academy's Drug Related Incident Proforma. Include details such as:
 - Conversations with the pupil
 - Changes in behaviour
 - Decline in academic achievement
 - Any physical and emotional signs of possible drug use
 - Friendship issues
 - Comments from other pupils or adults.

Recording/reporting:

All incidents involving improper use of medicines and drugs should be recorded on the Drug related Incident Proforma (see Appendix 1) and regularly reviewed by the Academy’s Drugs Co-ordinator.

Records should be used to report to Governors and to monitor effectiveness of policy and provide some guidance for education needs.



Guidance to staff:

- The Academy's Medical Conditions Policy sets out the basis of which the Academy may agree to administer medicines to pupils
- Where a pupil discloses drug misuse on or off the premises, staff will inform the Academy's Drug Co-ordinator immediately and where appropriate participate in the planning of the subsequent action
- Where staff discover substances which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation they should remove the substance from where it was discovered, if possible in the presence of a witness, and record the time, place and circumstances when the substance came into their possession
- When confiscating substances from a pupil, staff should do so if possible in the presence of a witness, he/she should not put off retrieving substances if visible. Note: staff are allowed to search pupil's personal items as directed by the Principal
- Do not investigate the nature of the substance, but do record its approximate size and appearance
- When possible have the recordings countersigned by a witness
- Take the substance immediately to the Academy's Drug Co-ordinator. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safe keeping; to do so may place you at risk
- In the presence of the Academy's Drug Co-ordinator the substance will be placed in a suitable sealed container. The Principal or Vice Principal, yourself and when possible, the witness should sign and date the package. A report should be completed (see Appendix 1) detailing the time, date and circumstances of the findings
- The Principal decides whether to arrange for the Police to remove the substance from the premises or whether to dispose of it in an appropriate way
- In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with drug use, especially needles and syringes neither staff nor students should handle such items. The Academy's Drug Co-ordinator should be informed immediately and the DfE guidelines for handling sharps will be followed.

Destroying substances:

It is important that staff do not attempt to destroy substances they believe to be illegal drugs, for the following reasons:

- The Environment Protection Act 1990 no longer permits the flushing of some drugs into the water system
- If a person is taken ill, the medical services will need to know what has been taken. If the drugs are destroyed this could seriously hinder treatment
- The substance is evidence and could be used in any future proceedings.

Confiscation of drugs:

The Academy has the power to confiscate drugs or drugs paraphernalia in line with the Academy's Behaviour Policy. The Academy does not have to return such confiscated items. The Drug Guidance for Schools makes clear that schools may choose not to return an item to the pupil. These items might – if the Academy judges this appropriate and reasonable – be stored safely at the Academy until a responsible family adult can come and retrieve them.

Appendix 1

Lydiard Park Academy Drug related Incident Proforma

Name of Pupil _____ Contact number: _____

Tutor Group: _____ DOB & Age of Pupil:: _____ Male/Female _____

Date of incident: _____ Time of incident: _____ am/pm

Tick box if second or subsequent incident involving same student

Incident Type Drug or paraphernalia found ON school premises

Pupil disclosure of drug use

Emergency/Intoxication

Student in possession of unauthorised drug

Parent/carer expresses concern

Parent/carer suspected of being intoxicated when collecting student

Other: Describe _____

Report form completed by: _____

First Aid given? Yes/No Ambulance/Doctor called? Yes/No

If Yes, Given by: _____ Time: _____ If Yes, called by: _____

Drug involved (if known): _____ Drug found/removed: Yes/No

Wherefound/seized: _____

Senior staff involved: _____

Name and signature of witness: _____

Disposal arranged with (police/parents/other): _____ At time: _____ If Police, incident ref number: _____

Name of parent/carer informed: _____

Informed by: _____ At time: _____

Principal informed: Academy Drugs Coordinator informed: Referral made:

Brief description of incident (including any physical symptoms):
Other action taken:

Form completed by: _____ Time: _____ Date: _____