

**Drug and Alcohol Policy**

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| **Policy Details** |  |
| Policy prepared by: | Adam Smith, Vice Principal |
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| Approved by Governors | December 2023 |
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**1. Policy Statement**

We will not tolerate the misuse of drugs within the school and its grounds and by students either representing the school out of school hours or on any school organised trips or visits. This applies also to any adult or persons who may come onto the school site and may be intoxicated and/or in possession of illegal drugs. Our school is a no-smoking area and we request that all adults refrain from smoking on or around the premises. This has been extended to include use of the premises by groups out of normal school hours.

We recognise that some of our students and parents need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these.

It is important to note that the school see inappropriate drug use by students as something to be challenged and changes in behaviour sought through support and counselling wherever possible. It is likely however, that any student found to have been distributing illegal drugs, whether or not in return for payment, will be excluded from school and the police contacted.

Definition of “Drugs” for the benefit of this policy

The term “drugs” refers to:

All illegal drugs.

All illegal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco and volatile substances.

All over the counter and prescription medicines.

**2. Aims of the Policy**

The Edge Academy believes that as part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to:

Increase students’ knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about drugs.

Develop students’ personal and social skills to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.

Enable students to explore their own and other people’s attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users.

Ensure the safety of staff and students when on school site or when on any school trip or visit, residential or otherwise.

**3. Context**

Drug education is provided through tutor and assembly activities, the Safeguard Support section of our school website, SMSC (2021/2022 Life Skills Programme), visits from outside agencies (including Aquarius), mentors and other related curriculum areas as part of a student’s preparation for adult life.

It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest.

It should be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community.

It should take account of age, sex, ethnic/cultural/social background of the students at whom it is targeted.

It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.

It should aim to teach the students the necessary personal and social skills described in the Aims Section above.

**4. Management of Drugs Related Incidents on School Premises**

The school believes that as part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to:

Try to maintain a health promoting drug-free environment.

Act on suspected drug or alcohol use.

Provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to any drug or alcohol related incidents.

Use suitable sanctions where appropriate.

Provide support to students with problems.

**5. Drug Related Incidents may involve…**

Possession of known/unknown substance(s).

Suspected/evidence of supplying substance(s).

Use of drugs at school.

Use of a drug outside of school which is affecting learning/progress.

Discovery of drugs in a place on the school premises.

Retrieval of drugs from such a place.

Suspicion of drug abuse (where information may have come from other students, parents, the police or other sources)

Self-referral by student. Each case should be treated in accordance with the principles above and the procedures below.

**6. Drugs on School Premises**

Our school makes it clear that drug use on the school premises is not acceptable, except in the case of prescribed medication which is known to the relevant members of staff. In such cases, parents MUST ensure that they have signed the appropriate medication consent forms.

Incidents would include:

Smoking on or around the school premises either during the school day or during evening/weekend events.

Alcohol on the school site during the school day.

* Alcohol consumed by adults on the premises at a time other than may be authorised by the Governors and/or Principal in conjunction with an approved and/or appropriately licensed event.

Adults or students on the school premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement.

Adults or students who are in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the school premises.  Where school staff suspect any one of the incidents may have occurred they should inform senior pastoral staff or any member of the leadership team who will make a judgement as to whether they should:

Approach the individual.

Call the police.

Make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of all other students on the school site.

Needles/sharps – these will be removed by the identified member of staff using thick leather gardening gloves and placed in a “sharps” box.

Illegal drugs – These should be confiscated in the presence of another adult. The drugs should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time they were found or confiscated. The police should then be notified. The drugs should be kept in the safe in student services until such time they can be collected.  NB – The person seizing the substances should wear rubber gloves and should wash their hands thoroughly after the incident.

**7. Alcohol, Tobacco and Vape use or Possession by Students**

Parents will be informed and given the opportunity to collect the tobacco. Where requested by parents/carers, the items will be disposed of or destroyed.

All drug related incidents should be referred immediately to the Principal or Vice Principal (Safeguarding). The following actions may result:

Suspension of the student.

Confiscation, where possible of the substance following the search and seizure procedure set out by the Birmingham Schools and Police Panel guidance.

* Where there are child protection concerns, the named Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL) or deputy DSL would be informed.

Contact with parents/carers.

The arrangements of a meeting with the student, parents/carers, pastoral staff and family social worker (or similar). The meeting should provide an opportunity to:

a)  Exchange information and opinion on the nature of the student’s involvement with drugs.

b)  To hear the student’s view.

c)  To agree a detailed plan covering support from the school and outside agencies as well as monitoring review.

**8. Drugs on School Visits and Trips**

Where drugs or drug related paraphernalia are discovered on a school trip, procedures will generally follow those for drugs found on school premises.

Additionally, the trip leader will discuss this with the EVC and/or nominated member of the Senior Leadership Team with responsibility for the Drugs Policy. The school reserves the right to require a parent/carer to attend and collect the student immediately or as soon after as practicably possible.

In the event of….

Suspicion of a student under the influence of drugs/alcohol/solvents

Student in possession of drugs/alcohol/solvents

Student discloses that they are misusing drugs/alcohol/solvents

Student discloses that parents/carers or friends are misusing or selling drugs/alcohol/solvents

School becomes aware of the availability of drugs/alcohol/solvents in the school vicinity

…teachers should contact the Principal or Vice Principal (Safeguarding) who should follow the appropriate Local Authority Policy Guidance. All disclosures and other incidents should be fully documented and passed to the relevant senior leader as soon as possible. Staff must ensure that on no account should they promise confidentiality.

**9. Emergency Procedures – Advice to Staff**

In the event of a student appearing to suffer from drugs/alcohol/solvent misuse, then staff should follow these procedures:

Do not panic – YOU CAN HELP.

If they are semi-conscious or in a coma, make sure the student is lying in the recovery position on their side. An ambulance must be called immediately.

If they are hyperactive, try to find a calm, dark area where they can sit with someone to reassure them.

Inform reception who will summon a First Aider and a senior member of staff.

Keep any containers or pills that are at the scene to show the Doctor or Paramedic. Ask friends, if present, if they know what and how much the student may have taken.

Stay with the student until assistance arrives.

**10. Confidentiality and Advice**

Students should be made aware that information cannot be confidential i.e. where the student is involved in the misuse of drugs. However, they should be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

**11. Assessing the Success of this Policy**

On an annual basis, the Senior Leadership Team will review the provision offered within school and review incidents which have been documented through the year.