



THE WEST GRANTHAM
ACADEMIES TRUST

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DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The West Grantham Academies Trust believes that drug misuse endangers not only our students but also affects the wider community in which we live. It is our responsibility to ensure the child's health and safety while in our care and we also strive to promote their personal and social wellbeing. Drug misuse undermines this and hinders the development of the young person.

This policy provides a focus for the Trust to consider how drug education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum, and outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. From a wider perspective, it gives parents and the local community an opportunity for involvement in drug issues. The policy forms an integral part of our existing health education and personal and social education programmes, and the drug education programme complements this.

The West Grantham Academies Trust recognises that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with drug culture. Young people are challenged by the changing and sometimes conflicting values of society, which places demands on them to make informed and responsible choices. The Trust wishes to promote the development of the 'whole person' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health by equipping students with the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Research cites personal inadequacy, a lack of self-esteem and peer pressure as the main reasons for drug misuse among young people. This places a responsibility on the Trust to better prepare young people for adult life.

AIMS OF THE POLICY

This policy builds on The West Grantham Academies Trust's core values and ethos. The policy, used in conjunction with the Department for Education (DfE) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Drug Advice for Schools document, will be a working document to be owned and used by all to whom it applies. The main aim is to support the children in their development of knowledge and skills in the context of a drug using society through a cross-curricular approach.

The purpose of this Drugs Education Policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of The West Grantham Academies Trust
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the academies
- Clarify The West Grantham Academies Trust's approach to drugs for all staff, students, Directors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing, and monitoring a 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 The West Grantham Academies Trust

- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the academies' drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the academies in contributing to local and national strategies

TO WHOM DOES THIS POLICY APPLY

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, Directors and partner agencies working in the academies, while in the boundaries of the academies' premises or during the academy day. The academy day includes all time when the students are in the duty of care of academy staff, including academy trips, clubs, sporting events, discos or proms.

DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLGY

The Law on Drugs

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act to be in possession of, or to possess with intent to supply to another, a controlled drug in contravention of the Act; it is a defence to the offence of possession that, knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, the accused took possession of it for the purposes of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence and that as soon as possible after taking it, he took all such steps as were reasonably open to him to destroy the drug or to deliver it into the custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it 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.

This document will adopt the definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as:

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

The terms 'drug' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, are used throughout this document to refer to all drugs, including:

- All illegal drugs (controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) such as cannabis, LSD and Ecstasy
- All legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (e.g. glues and aerosols) and ketamine
- Over the counter prescription medicines

THE WEST GRANTHAM ACADEMIES TRUST'S STANCE TOWARDS DRUGS, HEALTH AND THE NEEDS OF STUDENTS

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of The West Grantham Academies Trust's community and meeting the pastoral needs of students.

Illegal Drugs

The possession, use or supply of illegal drugs within the academies' boundaries is unacceptable.

In cases where it is clear that a student is selling or otherwise supplying drugs and the health and safety of other students is directly at risk, the student will be permanently excluded. When it is clear that a student is in possession of drugs, but not selling them, the Headteacher may decide that he/she should be excluded.

Medicines

Medicines should only be brought onto academy premises with the knowledge and permission of academy staff in accordance with the DfES/DH 2005 Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings.

At The West Grantham Academy St Hugh's the medicine will be kept by Student Support along with a letter of permission from the parents/carers of the student. This medicine can only be dispensed by allocated members of staff and taken under their supervision.

At The West Grantham Academy St John's all prescribed medicines must be recorded on permission slips and kept in the academy office, only to be taken under supervision from a staff member.

Volatile Substances

All volatile substances on academy premises are kept in secure storage and are used by, or under supervision from, members of staff.

Tobacco

Smoking is not acceptable anywhere on academy grounds. No-smoking signs are displayed on all major entrances and exits. Please refer to The West Grantham Academies Trust No Smoking Policy for further details.

THE DRUG EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The West Grantham Academy St John's

The main aims of drug education at primary level are:

- To emphasise the academies' focus on personal safety and personal health
- To explore issues relevant to students which are raised by the uses of drugs in society
- To help students develop, extend and practise the skills they need to cope responsibly in a drug using society
- To provide access to reliable, up to date, objective and balanced information about drugs, including medicines and legal drugs
- To give opportunities for students to explore a range of attitudes to drugs and to drug users, including their own and those of others
- To foster competence and confidence in students' critical thinking and decision making skills
- To contribute to raising and maintaining high self-esteem in all students
- To identify sources of further information and reliable support

Provision will be via the National Science Curriculum and the PSHE framework, with reference to QCA guidance, and will be taught in class groups, mainly by the class teacher.

Good teaching and learning will be achieved by the selection and use of appropriate methods for the aims of the session. Teachers will have a repertoire of flexible, active learning methods.

Students will be involved in the process of determining relevant content of the programme and monitoring e.g. by the use of needs assessments and involvement of students in assessing the quality and relevance of the drug education they have received through reflection and evaluation activities.

Outside agencies will be used to support effective teaching and learning where appropriate e.g. the police, the academy nurse, and health promotion specialists. Input from outside agencies will be planned with and supervised by the class teacher.

The West Grantham Academy St Hugh's

The main aims of drug education at secondary level are:

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect
- To build students' self-esteem
- To develop decision-making skills which may delay or prevent the onset of experimentation
- To warn students of the effects of drug abuse, and the risks involved
- To help students to understand how they can influence their peers
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals
- To show how certain drugs affect the body
- To show how to recognise potential drug exploitation and how to take avoiding action
- To explain what is meant by a 'drug' and 'drug addiction'

Provision will be via the National Science Curriculum and the PSHE framework, with reference to QCA guidance, and will be taught in class groups, mainly by the class teacher.

Good teaching and learning will be achieved by the selection and use of appropriate methods for the aims of the session. Teachers will have a repertoire of flexible, active learning methods.

Outside agencies will be used to support effective teaching and learning where appropriate, e.g. the police, the academy nurse, and health promotion specialists. Input from outside agencies will be planned with and supervised by the class teacher.

MANAGING DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS

If any drug-related incidents should occur, the safety and wellbeing of the child will always be the overriding concern. Each incident will be considered taking into account the circumstances of the individual and the parents/carers, police and other agencies may be informed according to the needs of the individual concerned. There may be interest in drug-related incidents in the media. The confidentiality of students will be a priority.

The standard procedure for situations where unauthorised drugs are discovered on academy premises (including medicines, alcohol, matches, lighters, volatile substances or any illegal drugs) will be to confiscate the drugs. Legal drugs, if found in a student's possession, will usually be returned to his/her parents or carers. Illegal drugs will be confiscated, stored in a secure location and given to the police

for destruction. The police do not have to be informed of the origin of the drug if it is not considered beneficial to the child involved.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on academy premises, the academy will prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it will be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

Parents/carers or visitors under the influence of drugs will be asked to leave academy premises.

All drug-related incidents must be recorded. For guidance, staff should refer to the DfE Drugs: Guidance for Schools document and contact the LEA for support and advice.

Police Involvement

Police will be informed of any incident involving illegal drugs.

Students' Access to Information:

Up-to-date information will be readily available to students through their teachers and posters and leaflets in their teaching environments. This should include national help lines and services (including FRANK, NHS smoking help line and Drinkline). The drug education programme includes details of services and how they work. Teachers can get information from the PSHE subject leader if required.

Confidentiality

Teachers should not offer students, or their parents, unconditional confidentiality. Information about behaviour likely to cause harm to the student or to others must be passed to the appropriate agency.

Academy staff will ensure that sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally with careful attention to the student's rights and needs.

All staff should refer to The West Grantham Academies Trust Child Protection Policy for further information on confidentiality and student rights.

Liaison:

The West Grantham Academies Trust seeks to ensure continuity of drug education through primary/secondary liaison.