Grace Academy Coventry

Drugs Education Policy

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1. Introduction

Grace Academy Drugs Education Policy defines 'drugs' as all substances, including alcohol, tobacco, inhalants and medications, which are used without medical supervision in order to change the way a person feels, thinks or behaves.

Drug use is drug taking, for example consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs. Drug misuse is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems. It may be part of a wider spectrum of social issues, problematic or harmful behaviour.

While the concerns of many adults are about the involvement of young people with illegal drugs, the reality is that for the overwhelming majority of young people the greatest drug-related dangers they face are from tobacco, vapes and alcohol. These three, tobacco, vapes and alcohol, are the key challenges for students of Grace Academy.

Grace Academy is a smoke-free zone, and all staff will observe the code of conduct relating to the premises and activities within it, including all activities which take place off-site sanctioned by the Academy.

2. Aims and Objectives

The aim of the Drugs Education Policy is to clarify the Academy's role in drug awareness, and prevention of misuse as part of its approach to a healthy Academy. Drugs education will be taught in a way that is developmental and appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of students.

The drugs education programme will enable students to make healthy informed choices by:

- ✓ developing their perceptions of self-worth and self-esteem
- ✓ increasing their knowledge and understanding of drugs and their effects
- ✓ challenging their attitudes
- ✓ enhancing their skills in decision making and resistance / assertiveness.
- ✓ education about drug misuse will be taught in our PSHE and pastoral curriculum

3. Teaching and Learning

To achieve these aims our drug education programme will seek to:

- ✓ promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- ✓ give students accurate information about drugs and their effects
- ✓ encourage the avoidance of drug use
- ✓ develop strategies to cope with peer group pressure
- ✓ improve self-knowledge, particularly in terms of risk-taking
- ✓ resist unhelpful pressures from advertising
- ✓ challenge and try to modify attitudes when they may lead to behaviour that could be harmful to health and relationships

- ✓ explore related health and social issues, such as HIV/AIDS and crime
- ✓ understand the links between drug use and risk-taking sexual behaviour

4. The Management of Drug Related Incidents

The health and safety of the students and staff of Grace Academy is paramount in the management of drug-related incidents. These are described as incidents that are likely to involve suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving drugs as defined in the introduction to this policy. This applies to all activities on the premises of Grace Academy and all off-site activities, including trips, sanctioned by and associated with Grace Academy.

Grace Academy staff will be briefed on recognising the possible effects of drugs and encouraged to be alert to the warning signs which may indicate that a student is experimenting with drugs, including being under the influence of alcohol.

If a member of staff has a cause for concern this should be brought to the attention of a Designated Safeguard Lead. All staff are made fully aware of the procedures for managing incidents, including who they should inform and who has authority regarding issues such as searching school property and involving the police, in line with local protocols. At all stages, establishing a clear understanding of the facts is an essential first step before deciding on any course of action. Careful attention is given to recording all relevant information.

Academy staff will be trained to deal with a drug-related medical emergency by calling for a trained first aider if available and calling for professional medical help. The Principal will be notified and attempts will be made to contact the pupil's parents.

The Academy has a role in identifying any student who has been experimenting with drugs or is at particular risk of doing so. Early intervention and targeted prevention are key objectives here and appropriate Ethos and pastoral support within the Academy's general pastoral arrangements will be made. This may include the involvement of relevant outside agencies. The Academy also has a duty of care towards the student's welfare if a parent is under the influence of drugs on school premises.

Where a student discloses to a staff member that he or she is experimenting with drugs, no promise of total confidentiality will be given to the student. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to students through the Drugs Education programme.

The Academy deals with each situation on its merits. It does not rule out the possibility of using permanent exclusion to deal with serious incidents. The Academy takes a zero tolerance approach to all banned items.

Parents will be kept informed about how the Academy intends to respond and will be encouraged to approach the school about concerns.

The Academy will liaise closely with the local police force on appropriate procedures for dealing with any drugs found on the premises or in any student's possession. The law permits Academy staff to take temporary possession of a substance, for the purpose of protecting a student from harm and from committing the offence of possession.

5. Appendix: Scheme of Work for Drugs Education

Objectives For Drugs Education In Key Stages 3 And 4

Pupils will know and understand:

- school rules relating to medicines, alcohol, tobacco, solvents and illegal drugs
- definitions of words: use, misuse, abuse, addiction, tolerance, dependence, overdose, withdrawal, adulteration
- different categories of drugs including stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, analgesics
- different types of medicine, legal and illegal drugs including their form, effects and risks
- the law relating to the use of legal and illegal drugs
- the misuse of drugs in sport
- the effects of different levels of intake of alcohol
- people who can help students if they have concerns
- dangers of addictive substances
- the dangers and impact of addictive substances within a community

Pupils will be able to:

- identify risks to health and mindset
- make informed decisions relating to drug misuse
- communicate with adults, parents, and professionals
- give and secure help (including basic first aid)