



## Drugs Policy

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Document Reviewed by:	E. Preston	K. McCarthy
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Goal: To promote the safety and well-being of all students and staff by preventing and addressing drug use within the school community, including outside of school hours.

## **1. Introduction**

ARTS Education is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. This includes maintaining a policy of zero tolerance towards drug use on school premises or during school activities. This policy applies to all students, staff, parents/carers, and visitors.

## **2. Education and Prevention**

Age-appropriate education and support is provided through PSHE, science lessons and during discussions in school where appropriate. The aim is to educate students in prevention of drug use by ensuring they are fully informed about the effects of drugs, how to avoid the use of drugs and where to seek support should the need arise.

## **3. Definition of Drugs**

*“A drug is a substance with the potential to modify bodily functions, emotional states, or mental processes”.*

This policy covers all illegal drugs, controlled substances, and any other substance (legal or illegal) that could impair learning, behaviour, or safety. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Illegal drugs: Cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, LSD, etc.
- Controlled substances: Prescription drugs used without a valid prescription or in a manner not prescribed by a doctor.
- New psychoactive substances (NPS): Legal highs, synthetic drugs, etc.
- Alcohol, tobacco and vapes: Not permitted on school premises or during school activities.
- Drugs paraphernalia

(By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters, vapes and pipes etc).

## **4. Drugs on school premises**

School premises, for this purpose, includes everything within the property boundaries, buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

## **5. Prescription Medicines**

The school procedure for the administration of medicines must be followed for everyone's safety (See Administering of Medicines Policy)

## **6. Prohibited Activities**

The following activities are strictly prohibited:

### Drinking Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the school day. Any adult or student, parents, carers or visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the school. Parents will be asked to remove their child from the school and seek medical support.

### Smoking

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school 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 school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

### Taking Illegal drugs and legal highs

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of the drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

### Inhaling Solvents

Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. School ensures 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.

### Vaping

Use of vapes or providing of vapes to another person on school premises is strictly forbidden.

## **7. Responses to partaking in prohibited activities**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Arrival on school premises under the influence of drugs
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs.
- Hiding drugs in or around the school 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 school community, and may result in the following:

- Confiscation of drugs.
- Searches may be conducted. This will be carried out in line with the Search, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Formal sanctions: Fixed term exclusion or permanent exclusion from school.
- Reporting to the police and/or social services, particularly in cases of serious or repeated drug use, or where there is concern for a student's welfare.
- Information shared with parents/carers: All drug-related incidents will be communicated to parents/carers.
- Referral to specialist agencies such as The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Team etc
- All incidents will be recorded on CPOMS

Fixed term exclusion from school and permanent exclusion, will both be considered in cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Code of Conduct, Drugs or Behaviour Policies and;
- Allowing a student to remain in ARTS Education would seriously put at risk the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school.

Members of the SLT, Safeguarding and Pastoral Team are responsible for management of drug-related incidents, offering support and liaising with outside agencies.

Incidents will be dealt with after an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Chair of Governors by the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

## **8. Drug misuse outside the school premises**

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016) the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

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

The school may also impose sanctions 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 school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

## **9. Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, it will be confiscated, wherever possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact police for advice. Illegal substances will be handed to police to be legally destroyed, as soon as possible and not stored by school. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless, for safeguarding reasons, this is not in the best interests of the student). Other professionals such as the Local Authority, Young Offenders Service, Police and Social Services will be consulted where appropriate.

## **10. Confidentiality**

ARTS Education will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate. Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no harm, if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy and at annual safeguarding training.

## **11. Support and Interventions for students**

The school recognises that drug use can be a sign of underlying issues, and we are committed to supporting students who are struggling with drug use. We offer a range of support services, including:

- Counselling and advice: Provided by qualified professionals within the school or through external referrals.
- Educational programmes: Drug awareness workshops and resources to increase understanding of the risks of drug use (P.S.H.E)
- Referral to specialist services: Working with external agencies like Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) for more intensive support.
- Involvement of the Police in certain situations

If inappropriate items are brought into school, they will be confiscated and kept for collection by Parents/ Carers at the end of the day. Dangerous or illegal items will be

given to the Police for safe disposal.

Parents and Carers will always be informed if the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Similarly, the police may well 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, will be taken. The Headteacher and Governing body will make decisions regarding school response.

## **12. Partnership and Communication**

The school works in partnership with parents/carers, the police, and other agencies to prevent and address drug use within the school community. We maintain clear communication channels to share information and ensure effective intervention.

## **13. Monitoring and Evaluation**

We review the effectiveness of our policy and practices yearly through student feedback, parent feedback and staff reflection.

## **14. Conclusion**

ARTS Education drug policy acknowledges the unique vulnerabilities and strengths of students with special educational needs. It sets clear expectations while promoting understanding, support, and early intervention. We believe this collaborative approach, built on open communication and shared responsibility, fosters a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

## **15. Further Information**

For further information or support, please contact the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead or Drug Awareness Coordinator.

Ages 11-13:

- Frank: <https://www.talktofrank.com/> - Offers interactive games, quizzes, and videos about drugs, including information on effects and risks. Age-appropriate language and visuals.
- DrugFAM: <https://drugfam.co.uk/> - Provides resources for young people about drugs, including personal stories, FAQs, and advice on talking to parents/carers. Age-appropriate language.
- Kids Health: <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/drug-alcohol/> - Offers information on

specific drugs and their effects, written in a clear and concise way.

Age-appropriate language.

- The Mix: <https://www.themix.org.uk/> - Offers information and support on drugs and other issues affecting young people. Age-appropriate language and resources.
- BBC Own It: <https://www.bbc.com/ownit> - Explores issues related to drugs and alcohol through relatable characters and stories. Age-appropriate and interactive.

Ages 14-16:

- Action on Addiction: <https://www.actiononaddiction.org.uk/> - Provides information on drug types, effects, and risks, along with resources on getting help. Age-appropriate language.
- Drinkaware: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/> - Offers information on alcohol and its effects on health, including interactive tools and quizzes. Age-appropriate and interactive.
- Mind: <https://www.mind.org.uk/> - Provides information and support on mental health, including how drugs can affect mental health. Age-appropriate language.
- Rethink: <https://www.rethink.org/> - Offers information and support on drug and alcohol use, including personal stories and advice on coping with cravings. Age-appropriate language.
- National Health Service (NHS): <https://bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/health-and-care/health-advice-and-support/drugs-and-alcohol/> - Offers information on specific drugs and their effects, along with advice on getting help. Age-appropriate and comprehensive.

Ages 17-18:

- Release: <https://www.release.org.uk/> - Provides information and resources on drug policy and harm reduction strategies. Age-appropriate and insightful.
- Transform: <https://transformdrugs.org/> - Provides information and resources on drug policy reform. Age-appropriate and advocacy-oriented.