



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY FOR LEARNERS

Updated June 2022
Approved by the Principal

This policy refers to and should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Learning and Behaviour Policy
- Search and Confiscation Policy

1. Rationale

- 1.1 Young people face growing pressures to use or experiment with drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances, including new psychoactive substances or legal highs. Our purpose is to do all we can to reduce these pressures, to educate children about the risks of involvement with drugs and to maintain an environment that is free as we can make it from drugs and the culture and temptation to use drugs and other harmful substances.

2. Links with other policies

- 2.1 There is a clear link with other school policies and documents including the Academy statement of purpose, Safeguarding Policy, Learning and Behaviour Policy and Search and Confiscation Policy.

3. Definition of drugs and substances

- 3.1 Any substance that produces an intoxicating or hallucinatory effect. This includes medicines, over the counter products, tobacco, alcohol in all its forms and new psychoactive substances.

4. Policy Aims

- 4.1 The aims of this policy are:
- To ensure compliance with the criminal law under which it is an offence for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs in the Academy.
 - To help develop in each of our learners the moral courage to reject those parts of youth culture that may be harmful to their integrity, independence, opportunities and respect for the law.

- To maintain the integrity of the Academy community, to reflect the wishes of the parents in this regard, and to provide support and confidential counselling
- To provide a firm disciplinary framework for dealing with learners who bring drugs, paraphernalia into school and use to tempt others to use them at or away from school premises. Learners involved with drugs in this way are liable to be permanently excluded.
- To provide a disciplinary framework for dealing with learners who arrive at the Academy under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- To teach young people about the effects of drugs and alcohol so that they know drugs and alcohol can affect their physical and mental well-being.
- To teach young people that drugs and alcohol can make young people vulnerable to harm and expose them to exploitation.

4.2 Parents are asked to give their wholehearted support to these aims.

5. Policy in relation to learners

- 5.1 Learners should feel able to talk in confidence to staff about drug related problems without fear of reprimand. They should also understand the limits of confidentiality that operate within this institution, namely that the principal will be informed about all drug related instances involving learners.
- 5.2 Learners should be clear that drugs and alcohol should not be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on school premises or on school holidays, field trips and visits organised by the Academy, where the same rules apply.
- 5.3 Learners should understand the difference between voluntarily confiding a drug related problem and being found deliberately breaking Academy rules on drugs. They should understand that violating Academy rules on drugs will incur serious disciplinary action. The Academy condones neither the misuse nor the illegal supply of these substances. The bringing or using of drugs onto Academy premises is unacceptable and will have serious disciplinary consequences.
- 5.4 It is the responsibility of the learner to report immediately to any member of staff if they are feeling unwell in connection with drug or alcohol usage.
- 5.5 Big Creative Academy is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing in relation to drugs, alcohol and tobacco (please refer to the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy).
- 5.6 Learners affected by their own or other drug misuse should have early access to support through the Academy and other services.
- 5.7 Learners who maybe experiencing difficult home circumstances due to parental/carers misuse of drugs will be assessed and supported under the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy. If it is deemed not to be a safeguarding issue then support will still be offered within the Academy by the Student Services team.