

Drug Education Policy
Erdington Academy
Part of Fairfax Multi-Academy Trust
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This document is one of a suite of policies under safeguarding children.

This policy covers the use and misuse of all psychoactive substances by students and staff of Erdington Academy. Substances covered by the term drugs in this policy include illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and prescription or over-the-counter- medicines (used for purposes other than those for which they were prescribed/intended).

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:
“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”

The term “drugs” and “drug education”, unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all illegal drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Act's amendments, ie. Drugs Act 2005.

At Erdington Academy, we value all students and we want all students to enjoy learning and achieving. As we are committed to all achieving their potential, high standards of presentation, behaviour and achievement are expected. A calm purposeful environment is the key to successful learning and achievement.

Aims

At Erdington Academy, we aim to provide our pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make informed choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle and develop to their full potential. Our drugs education programme teaches pupils about the dangers posed by drug use and aims to equip them with the skills that enable them to make informed decisions in relation to drugs in society.

Objective

- To provide our pupils with the knowledge and information about illegal substances and the harmful effects they can have on peoples' lives.
- To enable our pupils to discuss moral questions related to drug taking and to provide a safe environment for young people to share their thoughts and ideas.
- To help our pupils to respect their own bodies and in doing so reduce the likelihood that they will become involved in drug misuse.
- To encourage pupils to become more self-confident so that they are able to make sensible and informed choices about their lives.

To ensure that pupils are taught about drugs in a consistent manner following guidelines

that have been agreed by the DFE, LEA, parents, governors and staff. The aspects listed above are developed further in the guidelines found in **(Appendix A)**

The term 'drug' is taken to include over the counter medicines, prescribed medicines, aerosols gas and solvents, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

Within the school boundaries, the illegal supply and misuse of all drugs by pupils or adult members of the school will not be permitted. The school boundaries extend beyond the school perimeters and include journeys in school time, work experience and residential trips.

Organisation of Drug Education

The Headteacher will ensure that all staff delivering aspects of drug education are adequately supported and trained.

Drug education is co-ordinated by the Assistant Headteacher responsible for PSHE in consultation with the faculty leader for Science, subject leaders for RE and Citizenship and Achievement Leaders. Delivery takes place in "The Edge" lessons as well as provision from outside agencies during whole school Enrichment days.

Delivery is through:

Planned aspects within Science, RE, Learning to Learn and collapsed days to support the delivery of PSHE. Other aspects of the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities.

The school actively co-operates with agencies such as police, social care and health, LA and Health and drug counselling organisations to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

A variety of teaching approaches are used:

- To give pupils relevant information.
- To enable moral issues to be expected through discussion.
- To acquire appropriate skills.

When outside visitors are used to deliver elements of the drug education programme they will be given a copy of the Drug Education Policy in advance of their session. They will be expected to work in line with how the school has decided to deliver drugs education. A member of the school staff must always be present when outside visitors are delivering part of the drug education programme.

Involving parent/carers

Parents/carers have an important role in supporting their child's drug related education.

The school will ensure that parents/carers are:

- Made aware of the school's approach and rationale for drug education.
- Involved in the planning and review of the drug education programme and policy.
- Given information about their child's drug education and school policy in relationship to drugs.
- Have access to workshops to improve their own knowledge of drug education.
- Are able to access information about drugs and local/national sources of help.

Managing Drug Related Incidents

A designated Assistant Headteacher will deal with the day to day management of drug related incidents. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with such issues are adequately supported and trained.

For the purposes of this policy the definition of a drugs related incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs is an event that fits into one of the following categories:

- An individual is found in possession of drugs or associated paraphernalia.
- An individual is found to be supplying drugs on the school premises.
- An individual is thought to be under the influence of drugs. A pupil demonstrates, perhaps through actions or play, an inappropriate level of knowledge of drugs for their age.
- An individual discloses that they or a family member/friend are misusing drugs.
- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on the school premises.
- An individual has information on the illegal sale or supply of drugs taking place on the school site or local area.

The term 'individual' means pupil, parent/carers, governor, member of staff or visitor to the site. Information disclosed will be subject to the Confidentiality Policy, and therefore, may not be kept confidential. In instances involving known, or suspected, drug misuse or supply on the premises, the appropriate action is for the Pastoral manager or Assistant Headteacher to be informed. This person will have the responsibility of notifying the designated Deputy Headteacher who will then inform the Headteacher.

If an individual admits to using or supplying drugs on the premises, the same procedures outlined above must be followed. The school may seek advice from agencies such as police, social care and health, LA, health and drug counselling organisation. In all cases parents, will be informed at the earliest opportunity either by the Pastoral Team, Assistant Headteacher or designated Deputy Headteacher.

Incidents involving alcohol, tobacco and solvents will be referred to the Pastoral Manager/ Assistant Headteacher / Designated Deputy Headteacher and parents will be informed.

The school will consider each drug related incident involving pupils individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. Possible responses are given in Appendix B.

Any pupil found to be in possession of or knowingly supplying drugs on the premises will initially be subject to a fixed term exclusion, following which permanent exclusion will always be a consideration.

A visitor to the site or member of staff found to be in possession or knowingly supplying drugs illegally on the premises will be excluded from the site. In respect of a member of staff appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

The police will be informed of incidents involving illegal drugs.

Where applicable a record of a drug related incident will be added to the records of any pupil or member of staff involved.

Where appropriate the Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The School Leadership Team and Governors will have the responsibility for ensuring the policy is monitored and evaluated on an on-going basis and reviewed annually. The curriculum delivery will be reviewed annually by the designated Deputy Headteacher.

Communication of the policy A summary of this policy is held for referral.

Appendix A: Drug Education Guidance

Drug education is an important aspect of the curriculum it will aim to: Increase each pupil's knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions.

- The short and long term effects of drugs.
- The rules and laws relating to drugs.
- The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities.
- The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers.
- The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

Develop each pupil's personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.

- Assessing and managing risk.
- Communicating effectively.
- Resisting pressures.
- Finding information, help and advice.
- Developing problem solving and coping strategies.
- Developing self-awareness and self-esteem.

Enable each pupil to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes and exploring media and social influences. Develop each pupil's self-esteem and confidence.

Using methodology that enables pupils to play a more active role in the learning process. Encouraging them to be assertive and to withstand peer pressure.

Helping them to respect and value their bodies.

Enable each pupil to make healthy, informed choices.

Increasing their knowledge and understanding with accurate information about substances, their risks and possible consequences or use and misuse. Helping them to challenge attitudes and to develop and practice skills. Widening their understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS in line with other school policies.

Provide support for each pupil.

Delivering drug education programme that presents facts in a balanced and sensitive manner, set within a clear framework of values. Providing clear information as to the consequences to themselves should his/her abuse of drugs become known to a member of staff. Providing clear information to pupil's so they know where to turn to when they require help.

Appendix B: Responses to Drug Related Incidents.

The response to a drug related incident will balance the needs of the individual with those of the school and wider community. Possible responses include:

- Early intervention and targeted prevention.
- Referral to an outside agency (including police)
- Counselling.
- Behaviour support plans.
- Early Help Family Plan
- A managed move to another school.
- Alternative educational provision.
- Disciplinary action.
- Permanent exclusion.

Any sanction will always be justifiable in terms of:

- The seriousness of the incident.
- The identified needs of the individual and the wider community.
- Consistent with disciplinary action for breaches of other school rules (such as theft, violence, bullying)