



# Drug Misuse Policy

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## **OUR MISSION**

'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

All Saints Academy ensures that every student is well-educated, prepared for the future and is able to live life to the full. Our mission here at All Saints is summarised by the motto 'Together We Succeed'.

## **OUR VALUES**

To achieve our mission, we have four core values:

- FAITH – putting Christian faith at the heart of every action and providing a safe environment and caring ethos for all
- FOUNDATIONS – creating strong foundations in learning, behaviour and success for all
- FAMILY – understanding the importance of family, the value of community and ensuring support for all
- FUTURES – preparing for bright futures shaped from excellent progress, achievement and choice for all

This policy and the associated procedures are based on these principles, aims and beliefs.

## **STATEMENT**

All members of the All Saints Academy community are committed to tackling drug misuse and to maintaining a drug-free environment; within which pro-active drug education and pastoral support and care can be provided.

## **SUPPORTING STATEMENTS**

1. The Academy is dedicated to the health and safety of all its students and to doing all it can to make All Saints Academy an environment free of controlled drugs. Controlled drugs are drugs controlled by law and in general their use is illegal.
2. All Saints Academy is committed to tackling drug misuse.
3. The Academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and seeks to encourage students in need of support to come forward, and to provide them with that support and guidance.

## **DRUG EDUCATION**

The Academy believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that drug education is a vital part of the Life Studies (Personal, Social and Health Education) curriculum for every student. The aim of drug education at All Saints Academy is to give students the facts about drug use and misuse, to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give students the knowledge, skills and confidence to resist illegal drugs and associated items and to make healthy and informed choices. The school is keen to encourage inter-agency cooperation in the field of drug prevention. Experts in the field of drug prevention will be used wherever possible, and the school will continue to liaise with local health and social services and the police.

## **PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AT RISK**

The school is aware of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and is committed to providing support and help for students within a secure and drug-free environment. If a student comes forward, or has been identified by the school as having experimented with illegal drugs outside the school premises or as being at risk of doing so, they will be offered appropriate advice and support and parents/carers will be informed.

## **DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES (NOW INCLUDING PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES)**

The Psychoactive Substances Act of 2016 now bans formerly 'legal highs' such as 'meow-meow', which are now classified as class B drugs.

1. If the Academy has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used on the school premises, the school reserves the right to inform the police. Parents/carers of any students identified as being involved will also be informed.
2. If the Academy has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being supplied on the Academy premises, the Academy will inform the police. Parents/carers of any students identified as being involved will also be informed.
3. If the Academy is informed of possible criminal activity in relation to drug misuse outside the school premises, the police will be informed, in the interest of safeguarding the health and safety of young people in the area. Parents/carers of any students identified as being involved will also be informed.
4. If controlled drugs or associated items are found on a student or on Academy premises, parents/carers will be informed and the Academy reserves the right to inform the police.
5. All Saints Academy is committed to tackling drug misuse among young people. Any instances of possession, use or supply of controlled drugs and associated items on school premises will be regarded as a threat to the health and safety of others and will be treated with the utmost seriousness as per the Academy's behaviour policy.

The Academy will consider and investigate each incident individually. In the instance where the Academy suspects (or knows) that a student is under the influence of a controlled substance, we will always prioritise the student's safety and well-being first so will seek support (e.g. medical) before taking any other action.

**However, it must be made clear that:**

A. students selling controlled drugs on the Academy premises can expect this to lead to permanent exclusion.

B. students being in possession of or using or under the influence of controlled drugs on the Academy premises, or when representing the Academy (e.g. trips, sports matches, etc.), can expect this to lead to at least fixed term exclusion and could lead to permanent exclusion.

C. students being in possession of controlled drugs outside the Academy premises and/or during breaks from lessons, on the way to and from the Academy, when they are in the vicinity of the Academy can expect this to lead to fixed term exclusion and could lead to permanent exclusion. The vicinity of the Academy includes, but is not limited to the surrounding streets, bus stops and recreational areas. This should not be construed as the Academy's condoning the possession and use of drugs at times and in places other than those referred to above.

D. Any involvement in drug-related incidents will be treated very seriously and students can expect this to lead to fixed term exclusion and could lead to permanent exclusion.

E. The Academy reserves the right to search students if it is suspected that they may be in possession of banned items or items that are inappropriate in a school setting.

In all cases, the school will take steps to ensure that students have access to professional support and advice.

The Academy will consider any incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents.

**Definitions**

For the purposes of this document:

"PSHE" stands for Personal, Social, Health and Economic education. PSHE education can be defined as a planned programme of learning through which children and young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives.

"associated items" means items used in connection with the manufacture, use, storage, sale or concealment of illegal drugs or psychoactive substances

"at the Academy" means each of the following: (a) on Academy premises; (b) anywhere where a student is engaged in an activity organised by Academy staff or

anyone acting on behalf of the Academy (including when on trips and expeditions); and (c) whenever and wherever the student is wearing the Academy uniform or other clothing which identifies them as an All Saints Academy student, including when travelling to and from the Academy

“illegal drug” means a drug or substance that is controlled under the United Kingdom’s misuse of drugs legislation (including the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001), excluding medicine that was prescribed for use by the relevant student by a qualified medical practitioner

“psychoactive substance” means a substance that affects a person’s mental functioning or emotional state by stimulating or depressing their central nervous system, as described in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

### **Guidance to staff**

If you believe, or it is reported to you, that a student may have illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items on their person or in their possession at the Academy, you should report the matter to the Pastoral Deputy Headteacher (designated safeguarding lead) immediately.

Action by the Deputy Headteacher will then be taken as follows:

1. The student will be seen by the Deputy Headteacher and another member of staff together and told that the accusation has been made
2. The student will be asked to empty their pockets, bags etc in front of the Deputy Headteacher and a witness. This may also extend to their locker.
3. If a student refuses, they will be detained and parents/carers will be contacted. The police may be contacted.
4. Parents/carers will be informed of the accusation and the results of any subsequent search.
5. If any illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items are found, the student will be questioned further by the Deputy Headteacher, with the parents/carers in attendance (if available) and a witness. If the student’s parents/carers cannot be immediately contacted, the interview will take place and they will be informed as soon as possible. The student will be asked to write their statement and account of the situation.
6. A decision as to whether the police should be called in will be made. The decision will be affected by:
  - the items found
  - whether other students are involved
  - other wider circumstances

At all points the Academy reserves the right to inform the police if it deems it to be necessary.

Any member of staff who believes that a student is taking or dealing in illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items whilst at the Academy, should report the matter immediately to a member of the Senior Leadership Team, who will investigate the allegation following the above guidelines. Students should be encouraged to report immediately to a member of staff any matter(s) concerning illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items.