

## Trust Policy

# Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

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|---------------------------|-------------|----------------|
| CEO approval:             | Sean Kelly  | September 2024 |
| Trust Board Ratification: |             |                |
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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, principals, academy/trust staff and governing bodies 2012.
- 1.2 Raleigh Education Trust (RET) actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the academies take a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs, or anti-bullying policies.
- 1.3 The Trust is an organisation where human rights are respected as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the RET community. The Trust acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

## 2. Education and Prevention

- 2.1 We believe that accurate knowledge for all pupils is key, so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through the curriculum as well as during tutor time and assemblies.
- 2.2 Drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHE education delivered in a supportive environment, where pupils are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary.
- 2.3 Pupils say that they find input from external education agencies particularly useful. In response we aim to ensure that this is provided by approved agencies at regular intervals throughout their time at school. We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

## 3. Definition of a Drug

- 3.1 A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally, or mentally. For this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to:
  - a) All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
  - b) All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs')
  - c) All over the counter and prescription medicine
  - d) Drugs paraphernalia- items such as canisters, cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters, and pipes.

## 4. Drugs on academy premises

- 4.1 The legal definition of academy premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees, or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of an educational visit and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

## **5. Medicines**

- 5.1 Each academy has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our 'Supporting pupils with Medical Needs' Policy held on each academy's website.

## **6. Alcohol**

- 6.1 No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the school day. Any adult or pupil under the effects of alcohol, will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parent and carers will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

## **7. Smoking**

- 7.1 Academy premises are always no smoking sites. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on academy premises, they will be confiscated, and parents informed. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

## **8. Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"**

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

## **9. Solvents**

- 9.1 The academy will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they meet them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this policy.

## 10. Responses to drug related incidents

10.1 A drug incident may be any of the following:

- a) Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on academy premises
- b) Possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs by an individual on academy premises
- c) Use of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- d) Supply of drugs on academy premises
- e) Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- f) Pupil reports of parents, staff or other pupils using drugs
- g) Hiding drugs in or around the academy premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- h) Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.

10.2 If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on academy premises, the academy must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary, it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

10.3 Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take academies should follow their own disciplinary procedures.

10.4 Any adult under the effects of alcohol, will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the whole school. Leaders will respond accordingly based upon the circumstances and risk to children.

10.5 A member of the academy leadership team will be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents. They will work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead offering sources of support and liaise with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the Principal. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hour in line with the academy safeguarding policy on reporting incidents.

## 11. Drug Misuse Outside the Academy Premises

11.1 In line with [Behaviour in schools Advice for headteachers and school staff \(September 2022\)](#) the academy may impose sanctions on a pupil for misusing drugs outside schools when pupils are:

- a) taking part in any academy-organised or academy-related activity or
- b) travelling to or from the academy or
- c) in some way identifiable as a pupil at the academy.

- 11.2 The academy may also impose sanctions on a pupil for misusing drugs at any time, whether the conditions above apply, if the misuse:
- a) could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy.
  - b) poses a threat to another pupil or member of the public or
  - c) could adversely affect the reputation of the academy and/or Trust.

## 12. Individuals in Possession of Drugs

- 12.1 If any pupil on academy premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible and seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present. It must be stored in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff.
- 12.2 If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the academy will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, CGL, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.
- 12.3 The academy should follow the Relationships and Positive Behaviour Policy for any pupil that refuses to allow an item to be confiscated and contact parents. The police should be notified if required.

## 13. Confidentiality

- 13.1 The academy 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 (please refer to the academy's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy on the website for more information).
- 13.2 Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a pupil though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. If a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

## 14. Support for pupils

- 14.1 The welfare of the pupils is paramount, and intervention will be made if the academy feels a pupil is showing signs which indicates risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents/carers.
- 14.2 We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:
- a) Support and advice within the academy.
  - b) Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. CGL, Early Help team.
  - c) Working with the Police.

## 15. Right to Search

- 15.1 In line with the [Searching, Screening and Confiscation Advice for schools 2022](#), the staff in the academy reserve the right to search pupils if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.
- 15.2 Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team of the same sex and parents/ carers will always be informed when this has happened. Refer to the Relationships and Positive Behaviour Policy for additional guidance.
- 15.3 The Trust works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If pupils are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items.
- 15.4 Similarly, the police will be involved if any pupil 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, should be taken.

## 16. Policy Review

- 16.1 This policy is reviewed bi-annually (every 2 years) by the Trust. We will monitor the application and outcomes of this policy to ensure that it is working effectively.

## 17. Links to other policies

- 17.1 This policy is linked with the following policies;
  - a) Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
  - b) Relationships and Positive Behaviour Policy

## Appendix 1 – Useful Organisations

a) **ADFAM**

offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

b) **Alcohol Change UK**

works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems.

Tel: 020 3907 8480

Email: [contact@alcoholchange.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholchange.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

c) **ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)**

A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242

Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)

d) **Children’s Legal Centre**

Operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: [info@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:info@coramclc.org.uk)

Website: <https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

e) **Drinkaware**

An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Website: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>

f) **Drink line**

A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else’s drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)



g) **Drug wise**

Is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service.

Website: <https://www.drugwise.org.uk>

h) **FRANK**

Is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

i) **Family Lives**

A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

j) **Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)**

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents, and young people.

Text: 07496 959930

Information line: 01785 810762.

Email: [info@re-solv.org](mailto:info@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

k) **Smokefree**

NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

l) **Stars National Initiative**

Offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

m) **Youth Offending Teams**

Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

n) **Change Grow Live (CGL)**

The Place – Nottingham is a support service for young people (under the age of 18) and families affected by drugs and alcohol.

Website: <https://www.changegrowlive.org>