

## **Anti Drugs Policy**

This policy sets out our approach to drugs management and drugs education at Stockport Academy. The school strives to support every member of the community in bringing out the 'best in everyone' in keeping with our basic principles of 'Believe, Achieve, Aspire and Respect', within this we strive to ensure that all of our young people are protected and thrive in a safe, drug free environment.

**Drugs-** *'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'*. For the purpose of this policy this includes both illegal and legal drugs.

This policy is linked to other Stockport Academy policies:

- Behaviour Policy;
- First Aid Policy;
- Health and Safety Policy;
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy;
- Sex and Relationships Education Policy; and
- Whistle blowing Policy

Drugs management and drug education in the context of this policy includes medicines, volatile substances, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances such as solvents and psychoactive substances (drugs that are designed to replicate the effects of other illegal substances - people may refer to these drugs as 'legal highs').

Stockport Academy has the authority to address drug related incidents whenever there is an incident within the school boundaries.

The school boundaries are defined as any area where a student is the responsibility of staff; this includes; any area within the school buildings and grounds, during any outside activities or off-site trips and visits inside or outside of normal school hours. It also includes journeys to and from school.

This policy applies to all students, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members of the school and visitors to the school whilst on site, on school business off-site, on trips and visits.

As per Section 94 of the Education and Inspection Act 2006 and the Behaviour Policy, the school reserves the right to implement a search should staff/designated adults have reason to believe that students are in possession of a prohibited item including (although not exclusive to) legal and illegal drugs, knives or weapons, stolen items, tobacco, fireworks, pornographic images or any article that is likely to cause harm or offense. This authority to search is extended to lockers and bags belonging to any student. The school reserves the right to confiscate any item that is found as the result of a search.

### **This policy was informed by:**

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971;
- Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991;
- Education and Inspection Act 2006;
- Psychoactive Substances Act 2016;
- Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Curriculum Guidance for Schools at key stages 1-4 - QCA (2003);
- Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (2004);
- National Alcohol Strategy (2012);
- National Curriculum in England: science programmes of study (2015);
- Report to Government by the Advisory Group on Drug and Alcohol Education - Drug Education: An Entitlement For All (2008);

- Drug Strategy 2010. Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People To Live A Drug Free Life;
- DfE Advice for Head teachers, school staff and governing bodies on searching, screening, and confiscation (2018).
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012);
- Programme of Study for PSHE Education.
- United Learning guidance.

## **Aims:**

- 1) To provide a safe, healthy environment in which students and staff can be safe and enjoy physical and emotional well-being.
- 2) To enable students to make informed choices and to understand the benefits of a healthy, drug free lifestyle.
- 3) To ensure that students understand the risks associated with both legal and illegal drugs and to reduce the numbers of students who may experiment with illegal or harm-causing substances.
- 4) To enable, encourage and support young people and staff in accessing available support and treatment programmes if appropriate.
- 5) To ensure a robust system for dealing with drug related incidents and ensure that appropriate records are kept in relation to any issues that arise.

## **To achieve these aims we will ensure that:**

- 1) Drug Education is provided for staff and for students.
- 2) Information and support is available to all students and staff and we will also provide opportunities for parents to be educated with regards to drugs and their effects.
- 3) The school will work with the local authority and external agencies to secure a balanced delivery of drugs education, in conjunction with the Police, Healthy Young Minds, Mosaic Drug and Alcohol Services, Stockport Without Abuse.
- 3) We will provide opportunities for students to engage with other providers and outside speakers in relation to drug awareness in order to enhance their understanding, where possible.
- 4) All staff are supported with regards to safeguarding and access to appropriate information in dealing with drug education and drug related incidents.
- 5) An ethos of Belief, Aspiration, Achievement and Respect and a culture that seeks to bring out the 'best in everyone' in the day to day practice of the school is reinforced. In order to ensure that this ethos is embedded any action that is appropriate to ensure emotional and physical well-being will be in place.
- 6) The school will strive to ensure continued positive attitudes and development of skills, knowledge and confidence which will enable members of our community to enjoy the best life chances and make rational, well informed and safe decisions about drugs.
- 7) The school will not keep confidences in relation to illegal drugs; where there is suspicion of any student being involved in substance misuse, parents and any other appropriate body will be informed. Where a student makes a disclosure about their own or their family's substance misuse, the designated child protection officer will make an assessment of the extent of the misuse and any appropriate agencies will be informed including the police or social care.
- 8) If there is reason to believe that someone is under the influence of drugs taken elsewhere, in the first instance first aid will be sought and parents and appropriate authorities will be informed. The reporting of incidents involving drug abuse by one or more of our pupils to the school's authorities by a third party will be investigated and parents, any other appropriate authority will be informed.
- 9) Where there is the opportunity for early intervention in relation to suspected/actual drug abuse additional support will be put into place; this may include but is not exclusive to; one to one counselling, MOSAIC, intervention from the pastoral staff to develop awareness of harmful behaviours, build self-esteem/confidence, information about drugs and their effects.
- 10) Information is shared with regards to drugs with parents/carers as well as students and ensure that they have access to support as well as this policy through the school website.

- 11) Any new drugs related legislation is reflected in this policy and that all stakeholders are kept informed of any changes.
- 12) Where there is a drug related incident (or suspicion of such) appropriate referrals will be made to the police or any other appropriate support agency. The school will co-operate with the police, social care or any other appropriate body in relation to any drugs related investigation.
- 13) There are named staff for drug education and drug incident management. This role is carried out by Rob Taylor/ Kerris Stirling.
- 14) Any offsite visits will comply with Educational Visits (EVC) policy and a risk assessment will be completed.

The school reserves the right to call on the services of the police to actively prevent and reduce the number of drugs related incidents within the area. The police and specialist services may be used to carry out a passive drugs dog search as part of the preventative drug education programme.

If any student/member of staff is identified as using drugs as a result of passive search dogs then the procedures outlined in this policy will apply, alongside any action taken by the police.

## **Where students or staff are found to be in possession or are suspected to be under the influence of illegal drugs**

When there is reason to believe that a person has had access to illegal drugs, health and safety/wellbeing is paramount and they will be seen by a qualified first aider. A decision will then be made about any further medical intervention that is needed.

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, students suspected of being under the influence of drugs whilst on school premises will be removed from class and escorted to the Medical Coordinator/Assistant where they will be assessed. Assessment may include an oral swab test. A student refusing to cooperate with assessment will be assumed to be under the influence.

A member of the senior leadership team should be informed and take charge of the situation. The local police will be informed. If the incident takes place on a trip, advice will be sought from the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) link. If the trip is abroad, advice will be sought from the SLT link, the British embassy and the local police.

When handling any substance, protective gloves should be worn. The suspected substance should be confiscated. It should be kept secure and handed to the police in a labelled, sealed plastic bag or envelope via police colleagues. The bag or envelope must be signed and dated by the person confiscating the substance. Substances must not be destroyed.

Any students/staff/witness who are involved will be required to provide a written statement documenting the incident in as much detail as possible.

All stakeholders should be aware that use and possession of illegal drugs is a zero tolerance offence; where there is an incident in relation to illegal drugs in the school this will result in instant dismissal for staff or permanent exclusion for any students involved. Intent to supply will be a permanent exclusion.

## **Legal drugs, smoking and alcohol abuse**

All United Learning academies operate a total no-smoking policy. No pupil may smoke or bring tobacco products onto the school premises, students are also forbidden from using tobacco or e-cigarettes when travelling to and from the school or in any situation where they are identifiable as a student from the school. If students are found to be in possession of tobacco products parents will be informed and the products will be confiscated. The School reserves the right to dispose of any tobacco products confiscated from students.

All employees and adult visitors to the school are also required to refrain from smoking on the school premises.

Anti-smoking education should be included in the programme of Drugs Education outlined above, as is education about the safe and acceptable use of alcohol.

No pupil or visitor may bring alcoholic drink on to the school site, and the consumption of alcohol is strictly forbidden at any time when a pupil is under the school's authority.

Students who break the rules on smoking and drinking of alcohol can expect to be the subject of sanctions of a magnitude which reflects the seriousness of their misconduct, with the ultimate sanction of temporary fixed-term or permanent exclusion available for especially severe, irresponsible or persistent offences.

Any member of school staff consuming unauthorised substances at work or presenting at work in an intoxicated state (including when on duty during an offsite visit or trip) will be subject to disciplinary procedures. All school staff are obliged to follow the procedures set out in the school's Whistleblowing Policy.

Parents and carers are encouraged to approach a member of staff if they have any concerns over their child's involvement with drugs or unauthorised substances.

If staff suspect that a parent/carer is intoxicated on school premises they should attempt to communicate with them on a professional level – if there are concerns for the well-being of a child the police will be informed.

## **Leadership, Management and Governance**

### **Responsibilities - The Local Governing Body (LGB)**

*The Chair of the LGB will be consulted in relation to any drug-related incidents at the school. In addition, the LGB designated Safeguarding Governor will be notified in order to oversee and ensure that the requirements of this policy are fully implemented and report the outcomes, including any potential policy review or procedural changes back to the LGB.*

The LGB will be kept up to date in relation to drugs education and provision through the Pastoral Committee.

The LGB will hold staff accountable for the implementation of this policy.

### **Responsibilities - The Principal/ Senior Leadership Team**

The SLT are responsible for ensuring appropriate recording of drug related incidents and appropriate response should a drug incident take place.

The SLT are responsible for providing parents, students and staff the opportunities to access support and information in relation to legal and illegal drugs.

The SLT are responsible for robust record keeping of any incidents that occur and action taken in response.

### **Responsibilities - All Staff**

All staff are expected to follow this policy in relation to their own behaviour from its implementation.

Staff are expected to familiarise themselves with this Policy and to take appropriate action should they suspect any use of legal or illegal drugs as described in this document.

Staff should refer to this policy, alongside others noted above when completing risk assessments for off site visits.

## Responsibilities – Parents/Students

Parents should share concerns with the school in relation to students' behaviour regarding drug abuse if appropriate.

Parents should support this policy/action taken in relation to both illegal and legal drugs.

## **Policy Planning and Development**

Views of stakeholders will be taken into consideration in the implementation of this policy. There will be a systematic review of the impact of policies within an appropriate time scale.

## **Monitoring and Quality Assurance**

Data/ records of incidents will be collated and will be used to inform further school improvement/ support planning, target setting, decision making and any necessary review of this policy.

**Agreed by Stockport Academy LGB October 2024**

**Review            October 2026**

## Additional advice and guidance on concerns around drug and alcohol

### misuse can be found from the following organisations

**AA (Alcoholics Anonymous)** is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

Tel: 0800 917 7650

Email: [help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](mailto:help@alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk](http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk)

**Al-Anon** Family Groups provide support to anyone whose life is, or has been, affected by someone else's drinking, regardless of whether that person is still drinking or not. For some members, the wounds still run deep, even if their loved one may no longer be a part of their lives or have died.

Tel: 0800 008 6811

Website: [www.al-anonuk.org.uk](http://www.al-anonuk.org.uk)

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

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

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

**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: 0203 907 8480

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

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

**ASH** (Action on Smoking and Health) is a campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

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

**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.

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

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

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** is a charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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

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

**Drinkaware** is 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.

Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drinkline** is a free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 12391110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

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

**Family Lives** is 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: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk>

**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)

Schools can receive free FRANK resource materials, updates and newsletters by registering at <http://ddshl.broadsystem.com/freeleaflets.aspx>

**National Association for Children of Alcoholics** provides information, advice and support for children of alcohol dependent parents and anyone concerned with the welfare of a child.

Tel: 0800 358 3456

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

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

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 0207 843 6000

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

**Quit Smoking** is an NHS resource to assist in supporting stopping smoking NHS Smokefree Helpline: 0300 12361044

Website: [www.smokefree.nhs.uk](http://www.smokefree.nhs.uk)

**Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) is a national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 810762

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

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

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

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

**We Are With You** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Tel: 0808 801 0750

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

**Directgov Young People** can help young people with information and advice on issues relating to health, housing, relationships with family and friends, career and educational options, money, as well as helping young people find out about activities they can get involved in.

Website: <http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm>

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: <http://www.justice.gov.uk/global/contacts/yjb/yots/index.htm>