



Huxlow Academy

Ambition • Respect • Pride

Policy Owner	Department	Effective Date	Approval Date	Review Cycle	Revision Due Date
L Gauvrit	SLT	February 2024	14 February 2024	Annual	February 2025

Drugs Policy

Policy Approver: Academy Improvement Board

Version Control

Version Number	Date of Change	Changes Made
0.1	November 2022	Updated to new template
0.2	February 2024	Clarity for suspension due to smoking and vaping



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Contents

1. Policy Aims.....	3
2. Applicability	3
3. Executive Summary of Policy.....	3
4. Raising Awareness	3
5. Informing and Involving Parents	4
6. Working with Outside Agencies	4
7. Sanctions.....	4
8. Tobacco Related and Electronic Cigarette (Vape) Incidents	4
9. Involvement in Serious Drugs Incidents	5
10. Related documentation.....	5

1. Policy Aims

This policy document aims:

- To provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information.
- To enable our students to make informed choices as responsible adults and to encourage parents/carers to reinforce the aim of this policy at home.
- To continue to develop working relationships with outside agencies and encourage links with them in order to support students who seek help from the Academy community.
- To provide Academy staff with a structure of support and guidance when dealing with a drug-related incident in the Academy community.
- To tackle problem behaviour in school, with wider powers of search and confiscation.
- To ensure that students affected by their own or other's drug misuse will have early access to support through the Academy and other local services.

2. Applicability

This document has been drawn up with reference to staff, students and the Academy Improvement Board and should be used in conjunction with the Academy Behaviour for Life policy.

3. Executive Summary of Policy

DEFINITION:

A drug or substance is defined as a chemical product that changes the natural balance of the body when consumed. In the context of this policy 'drugs' refers to medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, electronic cigarettes (vapes), New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) or 'legal highs' and other unauthorised substances.

The Academy believes that the possession and or use of such drugs/ drug paraphernalia in school as not only a safeguarding concern for the individual student caught in possession but also a health risk to other students due to the 'unknown' effects of coming into contact with the drugs and/or the drug paraphernalia. Possession and or use during the school day, while travelling to/from school, or on a school trip is inappropriate. The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto Academy premises during the school day, or while students are on Academy visits.

The Academy promotes Healthy Living; the misuse of drugs, whether legal or illegal, is not part of the Academy values of Ambition, Pride and Respect.

Provision is made for students who require prescription medicines where appropriate (see the Academy 'Supporting Students with Medical Needs in School policy').

4. Raising Awareness

The Academy will provide quality education to all students in tutor time, PSHE, assemblies, enhancement days and other areas of the curriculum. Information about legal and illegal drugs use will inform students of the effects, dangers, and possible consequences of taking any type of drug and it will reflect the whole Academy positive approach to healthy living. Healthy lifestyles will form part of whole Academy PSHE in years 7 to 13.

5. Informing and Involving Parents

Parents will be informed if the Academy updates the Drug Policy.

The policy will be available for parents to access on the Academy website.

The Academy will work closely with parents to ensure they have the necessary information or access to the appropriate agencies when required.

Students and associated parties will know how to seek help and will be supported by the Academy if they approach staff with any drug issues. Senior staff will know the correct procedures to follow in the various cases of tobacco, alcohol, vapes and drugs-related incidents. All drugs-related incidents will be recorded and investigated; parent/carer and relevant agencies will be informed.

Although the Academy is not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child, the Academy will inform parents if a search has taken place. Searches will only take place by a senior member of staff in the presence of another adult.

The Academy will inform parents or guardians where tobacco, alcohol, illegal and legal drugs, vapes or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal Academy complaints procedure.

6. Working with Outside Agencies

The Police will not normally be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the Academy will inform them about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol, vapes or volatile substances to students in the local area.

The Police will be informed of any incidents involving illegal drugs.

A drugs counsellor will be available to speak with students at the request of the Head Teacher or Senior Assistant Head Teacher.

7. Sanctions

Any response to drug related incidents will balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider college community.

The Academy drug policy allows for the permanent exclusion of any young person who, through their serious or persistent behaviour, is placing themselves, other young people or staff at risk.

The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Senior Assistant Headteacher or Assistant Head Teachers will oversee and coordinate drug issues. They have the authority to search students in the presence of another adult.

8. Tobacco Related and Electronic Cigarette (Vape) Incidents

The Academy is a public place and the law states that smoking is not permitted in the Academy grounds.

The use of tobacco or electronic cigarettes (vapes) on the Academy site, when in Academy uniform or when representing the Academy is not acceptable. All incidents where students are found with or using electronic cigarettes will be sanctioned, in most cases, with suspension. Upon readmittance, students will be supported through referrals to relevant professional services.

9. Involvement in Serious Drugs Incidents

This part of the policy applies to drugs which are illegal or not for a medical purpose and which could harm students. In the case of medication, the Head Teacher will decide if the intent and potential impact of the student's actions are worthy of following this part of the policy

After an initial assessment by First Aid staff or member of the SLT, and if there is no danger to the student, parents will be contacted to remove the student from the site if under the influence of any substance.

For a first disciplinary offence:

- a. Supplying, dealing, asking others to carry drugs for this purpose – **PERMANENT EXCLUSION**
- b. In possession of and/or using – **5-20 days exclusion, from the 6th day onwards the exclusion will be served in another educational establishment**

FOR ANY SECOND DRUGS INVOLVEMENT IN b, A PERMANENT EXCLUSION WILL BE GIVEN.

- c. Being personally complicit in the presence of drug use but not carrying or using (a student whose actions or presence are an encouragement to others) – **3-7 days exclusion**

Students who already have exclusions for other matters may be excluded at the next highest stage for points b and c. These actions endanger the student and could put other members of the Academy community at risk.

- d. Being knowingly in the presence of, but not complicit in their use – **Reflection followed by a Reset until 4pm, with a parental interview with a member of the Senior Leadership team**

Further incidents of d. will lead to a more serious discipline procedure and could result in suspension or a permanent exclusion.

- e. The refusal to be searched when there are reasonable grounds for the search will be punishable by exclusion– 1-5 days exclusion. A second refusal to be searched, where there are reasonable grounds, could result in a permanent exclusion.

10. Related documentation

Education and Inspection Act 2006

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012)

The Government's 2017 Drug Strategy

Screening, searching and confiscation: advice for schools (July 2022)

Signed Date
Chair, Academy Improvement Board