



MARISH

Academy Trust



Drugs' Education Policy

Date: November 2015

Version:2.01

Summary

In this policy the following issues have been addressed:

- Policy statement
- Aims of Drug Education
- Objectives of Drug Education
- Within this policy any reference to drugs will mean drugs, harmful or intoxicating substances

1 Contents

1	Contents.....	2
2	Introduction.....	3
3	Policy Statement.....	3
4	Aims	3
5	Objectives	4
6	Context	4
7	Content, Teaching Methods and Organisation.....	4
8	Marish Academy Trust’s Response to Drug Misuse	6
9	Dealing with Drug Related Incidents	6
10	Procedures to follow in response to a Drugs Related Incident	7
	Appendix A.....	8
	Appendix B	Error! Bookmark not defined.
	Appendix C	10
11	Revision History	11
12	Approval History	11

2 Introduction

The policy has two major sections:

- The Education Policy
- The Schools Response to Drug Misuse

In this policy the following issues have been addressed:

- Policy statement
- Aims of Drug Education
- Objectives of Drug Education
- Within this policy any reference to drugs will mean drugs, harmful or intoxicating substances.

3 Policy Statement

1. Marish Academy Trust wishes to encourage the individual pupil to take responsibility for their own spiritual, personal and moral development by providing knowledge and an understanding of drugs, which enables personal decisions to be made.
2. Marish Academy Trust does not support the misuse of drugs in any form by members of the School, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
3. Marish Academy Trust is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
4. Marish Academy Trust acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the ethos of the school, will seek to encourage pupils in need of support to come forward. Whilst acknowledging that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, we recognise that the larger number of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances.

The School 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 health education is a vital part of the Personal and Social Development of every pupil.

5. Fundamental to our school's values and practice is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

4 Aims

1. To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and promoting appropriate attitudes.
2. To provide accurate information about substances.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
4. To encourage an understanding of those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
5. To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
6. To seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face.
7. To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

5 Objectives

5.1 Knowledge

1. To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
2. To ensure that all pupils have access to this information.
3. To provide opportunities for pupils to be equipped with the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs and to help reduce school problems associated with drug misuse.
4. To raise awareness of the legality of various substances.

5.2 Behaviour

1. To develop self esteem and assertiveness skills empowering the individual to say 'no'.
2. To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse.
3. To delay the age of onset of first use for those who do experiment at any time.
4. To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms of misuse.
5. To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

5.3 Responsibility

1. To increase knowledge of social and personal issues relating to drugs in line with the National Curriculum.
2. To enhance young people's decision-making skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle.
3. To enhance later parenting skills in relation to prevention of drug misuse when pupils reach adulthood. .

6 Context

Drug education will be taught in the broader context of the teaching of health and personal and social development as part of a pupil's life skills and preparation for adulthood. The content of the syllabus will be sensitive to the age, religion and cultural/social backgrounds of our pupils. It will be delivered in the context of the school as part of the community and take into account the local circumstances and culture of the community eg parents who experience drug misuse. The content will provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice.

7 Content, Teaching Methods and Organisation

7.1 Content

We aim to:

- Deliver in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug misuse.
- Encourage active pupil participation.
- Provide teachers and other professionals with specific training in the requirement of drug education and issues relating to drug misuse.

- Provide opportunity to access advice/or help pupils with problems or concerns.

7.2 Delivery

The Drugs' Education programme is principally delivered through Science and PSHE. In addition the school is actively co-operating with various agencies in order to deliver this policy on Drug Education. We will be developing links as they become appropriate. All agencies, which are involved, will be given copies of this policy.

8 Marish Academy Trust's Response to Drug Misuse

8.1 Introduction

We appreciate that even with our most carefully structured programme of Drug Education there will still be some young people of school age who choose to experiment with illegal drugs. Therefore we have developed clear policies and procedures for dealing with drug related incidents on school premises. Our aim is to develop a consistent approach to dealing with and managing drug misuse at our school. Fundamental to this is ensuring that the well being of all of our students is paramount. Instances of possession, use or supply of illegal drugs on school premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.

8.2 The Legal Position

See Appendix A.

8.3 Warning Signs of Possible Drug Misuse

See Appendix B.

8.4 Physical Symptoms

See Appendix C.

9 Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

9.1 Considerations

There will always be a need for professional judgement in determining the exact nature of a particular incident, assessing the available evidence and an appropriate response, which may or may not be a sanction. It is also recognised that it may be necessary to act firmly and raise the category of a sanction if a situation arises when a significant number of students commit an offence. We recognise that certain behaviour, which could constitute a violation of the criminal law should not, in itself, be taken as automatically leading to the exclusion of a pupil.

The following procedures are followed with respect to any breach of the school rules:

- a. The welfare and safety of the student(s) is taken care of first
- b. All aspects of the incident are investigated before deciding on a course of action. This may involve taking statements from other students/staff. A set format is in place.
- c. Senior Management will use the school's systems as a first response to the incident
- d. Involve parents/carers, the police and other outside agencies as appropriate

9.2 Confidentiality

The school will endeavour to maintain confidentiality throughout the handling of the incident/disclosure in order to retain the trust of students and parents. However the students should understand that this cannot be guaranteed. Other students' names will not be included in any communication. Students will be made aware of the obligation staff will be under to inform appropriate agencies when a disclosure is made.

10 Procedures to follow in response to a Drugs Related Incident

1. Ascertain whether the student is in any immediate danger or under the influence of a substance. If they are seek medical help following school procedures. Where appropriate call the hospital for advice.
2. If a student has made a disclosure to you about their, or another student's involvement with drugs, offer immediate help and support either by yourself or by referring the student to a member of SLT.
3. If you have discovered:
 - A student or group of students with an illegal substance or with an unknown substance;
 - An illegal or unknown substance on the school site;

Inform a member of the SLT immediately. Remove the substance from the student concerned preferably in the presence of another teacher. Where students are suspected of concealing illegal drugs on their person, every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substances, for example, by asking them to turn out their pockets or empty their school bag or drawer. If the student refuses, the police will be called in to deal with the situation. Intimate physical searches or asking students to remove articles of clothing eg shoes, should never be made by any member of staff. Even if a student consents to being searched the school considers it to be inappropriate practice to conduct such a search. This is in line with Union recommendations.

4. The member of SLT will work to investigate the incident fully, being sensitive to the possibility of threats or bullying, which may arise. Where appropriate, cover will need to be provided for the staff investigating. When interviewing a student there must always be a witness present. All statements must be written by the member of staff or the student under the direction of the staff interviewing. No students must be left unsupervised in this process. Accurate recording of the incident is essential. The record should be factual and contain the necessary detail to provide a clear picture of the incident.
5. When all facts are known a meeting will take place between the staff investigating and the Headteacher to determine the appropriate outcome. This will be recorded along with the reasons for deciding upon this form of action.

Appendix A

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Under this act it is an offence to possess or supply certain types of drugs unless they have been prescribed for personal medical use. Within controlled drugs there are 2 categories: Category A and Category B.

Drugs can also be divided into the following types:

- depressants (designed to slow down the body)
- stimulants (designed to give a feeling of energy aggression)
- hallucinogenics (substances that alter perceptions) medicines (substances that alleviate the symptoms of illness)

Category A

Heroin (slang – bot, china, dragon, H, scag, smack, junk). This can be identified as a white powder and is derived from the opium poppy. It can be smoked, sniffed, injected or inhaled.

Cocaine (slang – crack, rock, C, charlie, coke, dust, snow). This can be used as a white powder or in a small white block, extracted from the cocoa plant. It is sniffed or injected. Crack is not smoked.

Ecstasy (slang – E, adam, burgers, dennis the menace, brownies, MDMA, XTC). This will be found in capsules and tablets of various sizes and is swallowed.

LSD (slang – acid, tabs, blotters, frash, lucy, dots, transfers, rhubarb and custard). This is generally made into small white or brown tablets, or will be found as blotting paper soaked in chemicals. These substances are swallowed.

Amphetamines (slang – speed, whiz, sulph, uppers, stimulants). Can be included in category A if prepared for an injection or category B if ingested. They will be found in powder, tablets, or capsule form and are either sniffed, swallowed or injected.

Category B

Cannabis (slang – hash, grass, dope, ganja, pot, blow, draw, marijuana). Hash is a brown solidified resin from the cannabis plant, whereas grass consists of dried leaves of the cannabis plant. This substance is smoked with tobacco, or smoked on its own. It can also be eaten.

Licensing Act 1964 and Children and Young Persons Act 1933

This legislation makes it illegal to sell alcohol to young people under the age of 18. It is an offence to give alcohol to children under 5, but those over 5 can consume alcohol on private premises.

Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (Amended 1991)

This act makes it illegal to supply TOBACCO to anyone under the age of 16 years. It is also an offence for children 16 and under to smoke in public.

Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985

It is illegal to supply any substances to anyone under the age of 16 years knowing that it will be misused.

Appendix C

Personal Changes

- Sudden changes in mood, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleeplessness or slurred speech
- Unusual smell, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or other solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on foot
- Staining on hands

General Social Changes

- Keeping away from other pupils
- Being the subject of rumour about drugs
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing of substantial sums of money
- Unexplained loss of money or belongings from home
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods, which are then sold
- Changes in attendance patterns
- Reluctance to participate in school activities
- Loss of interest in a sport or hobby
- Sudden changes in friendships group
- Performance at school shows a marked decline
- Strangers on the school premises

11 Revision History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Comments
1.0	28/04/2011	Gill Denham	
2.0	05/11/2015	Jason Davies	No significant amendments.

12 Approval History

Version	Approved	Comments
1.0	28/04/2011	
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