



The Roundhill Academy DATE Policy (Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco Education)

The policy has been developed in consultation with staff, students, parents and governors.

Aims of this policy

- To clarify the statutory requirements and responsibilities of the school
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies

Policy context

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area. The drugs education of students takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum Science Order, the statutory Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) guidelines and the non-statutory framework for Personal Social and Health Education at Key Stages 3 and 4.

Other related policies and documents include:

Personal Development Policy

Safeguarding Policy

RSE Policy

Health and Safety Policy

Behaviour Policy

School Visits - nurse

Medical Records

A letter about the use of medication in school Home School Agreement

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, governors and other partner agencies working with the school. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Here, "drugs" and "drug education" is used to refer to:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, 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')
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students:

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs in The Roundhill Academy is not acceptable. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the pastoral care and health and safety of students. In any instance regarding illegal and unauthorised substances the school is required to contact the police and is advised accordingly.

Drugs Education

Aims of Drug Education

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention. The following aims of drug education at The Roundhill Academy will be consistent with the values and ethos of the school and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs, the rules and laws relating to drugs, the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities, local and national use of drugs and the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles, assessing, avoiding and managing risk, communicating effectively, resisting pressures, finding information, help and advice, devising problem-solving and coping strategies as well as developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves.
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education.

- Students who wish to access any support group should contact Student Services who can advise and signpost them to the appropriate service.

Drug Education Content

The Roundhill Academy provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

1. The National Curriculum Science Order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education: At Key Stage 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught that conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease. At Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught that “human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments”.
2. PD at Key Stages 3 and 4 includes specific drugs education such as “facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse, and the personal and social consequences of misuse themselves”, “ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations” as well as other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills.
3. PD at Key Stages 3 and 4 contributes to drug education e.g. by providing opportunities to understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities, to explore moral, social and cultural issues and to discuss and debate topical issues.
4. Other curriculum areas such as Science, Religious Education and Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

Organisation

Responsibility for coordination - The coordination of Drugs Education is the responsibility of the Vice Principal who is the Designated Safeguarding Leader, Assistant Principal, Student Services, Tutors, PD teachers and the PD Lead. The Head of Faculty of Science and PE also has responsibility for elements of drugs education.

Delivery - This is through form PD lessons at key stage 3 and drop down days at key stage 4 as well as Science and PE lessons.

Staffing - Teachers deliver the content through PD lessons, drop down days and Science and PE curriculum time.

Visitors - Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education.

Teaching strategies - A variety of teaching strategies is used in line with The Roundhill Academy Teaching and Learning Model.

Students with special educational needs (SEN) – Key workers will ensure that drug education is accessible to students with special educational needs by considering resources and materials used, timings, teaching strategies etc.

Resources - A wide variety of materials is available to teachers and for inspection by parents on request.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- To ensure regular Quality Assurance of the Personal Development Provision is carried out (according to the school QA calendar) and acted upon to maintain high quality provision for all students.
- To develop and review policy and practice accordingly.
- To ensure staff are updated on any developments related to personal development and that relevant CPD is delivered accordingly.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Principal or one of the two Vice Principals will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Principal or a Vice Principal as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- The Principal or Vice Principals will inform, consult and involve others including the police as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. If the individual refuses, the Principal, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent (Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93))
- Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
- After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in a secure place. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- A detailed record of the incident will be made by the relevant person. A copy of the record will be kept by the Principal. There will be no other copies of the incidents.
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies.

Responses to drug related incidents

The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Any response will balance the needs of the individual with those of the wider community and will aim to provide students with the opportunity to learn from their mistakes and develop as individuals.

(i) While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, our local agreement on safeguarding grounds is to share information with the police. If an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the Police. If so, the Principal, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.

(ii) If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Principal and appropriate member of SLT – Senior Leadership Team) in order to decide whether others outside the school should be informed. These may include parents/carers, , the appropriate personnel in the LA (Local Authority), Childrens' Social Care and police.

(iii) Responses to / sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Principal and other appropriate members of staff.

Possible responses include targeted intervention, referral to counselling, behaviour support plans, inter-agency programmes, fixed-term exclusion, pastoral support programmes, a managed move or a permanent exclusion. Responses and sanctions will take in to account the seriousness of the incident, the short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned, the short and long term welfare of other students and consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents and other misdemeanours.

Role of the Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, governors have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy as a commitment to safeguarding.

Dissemination

All staff, parents/carers and students will be reminded of this policy and its procedures on a regular basis.

Reviewed January 2020 in consultation with staff, students and parents and governors.

Charlie Hardy
Assistant Principal