Drugs Policy
&
Guidance

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Drugs Policy

Introduction
This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies visiting or working in Churchill Academy. It applies equally to journeys to and from school, work experience, residential/non-residential trips, college courses and extra-curricular activities. It refers to all illegal or unauthorised substances. Churchill Academy does not tolerate the use or supply of illegal drugs. No illegal drugs are permitted on the Academy premises under any circumstances.

Aims
This Policy aims to:

- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school.
- Ensure that the education and support provided by the Academy will allow students to grow up safely in a society where drugs are available.
- Make clear the consequences of drug abuse in the school context.

How

1. Through PSHE and other areas of the curriculum, we will educate young people about the consequences and risks of drug use and misuse. We will increase their knowledge, challenge their attitudes and improve their skills in order to encourage them to make healthy, informed choices.

2. We will work closely with parents and carers, and with other relevant organisations to enable students to make positive choices about drugs. We will enable students to identify sources of confidential advice and support where relevant.

3. Where the school has reason to believe that a student may be in possession of drugs, vapes, alcohol and tobacco, or related paraphernalia, they will be searched according to the Behaviour Policy.

4. If illegal substances or related paraphernalia, including containers, are found, they will be confiscated and dealt with according to the provisions laid out in this policy. In the case of alcohol, vapes, tobacco and related paraphernalia, the substances and items will be confiscated and appropriate disciplinary action taken.

5. The police will be informed of any incident involving drugs. Disciplinary action will be taken. In cases involving illegal drugs, this action will usually be permanent exclusion.

6. The school has a No Smoking Policy in all areas of the school for all students and visitors at all times, including when the Academy is used as a public venue. This also applies to e-cigarettes/vapes.

7. Any students who the Academy suspects might be under the influence of illegal substances whilst on Academy premises or trips, will be subject to a search, parents will be asked to collect from the Academy and sanctioned according to the Behaviour Policy.

Monitoring & Evaluation
The number and nature of any drug-related incidents will be reported to Governors as part of the regular Behaviour Report and in the Headteacher's report.

Supporting Documents

- Medical Support in Schools
- Guidance – Drugs Education
- Behaviour and Discipline
- No Smoking Policy

Guidance – Drugs Education

Churchill Academy aims to develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school, both formal and informal, with particular reference to Science and Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE). The responsibility falls within the remit of staff coordinating Personal, Social and Health Education, who will ensure that it is consistent with the framework for PSHE.

1. All students will follow a drug education programme which is responsive to their needs and relevant to their age, experience and maturity.

2. Students will be given accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol, tobacco and solvents.

3. Using a range of teaching approaches and with input, where relevant, from outside agencies with specialist knowledge, students will explore and develop their own attitudes to drug use and be made aware of the consequences of drug misuse to individuals, families, local communities and society.

4. Students will be given opportunities to develop skills to make informed and sensible choices about drug use and to handle situations involving drug use and misuse.

5. It will be made clear to students that the Academy will not tolerate the possession or misuse of illegal drugs in the interests of the wider Academy community. This includes drugs which are legal for adults but illegal for children and young people.

6. Any student who has brought an illegal substance to school and/or is caught in possession of an illegal substance in school or during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, will be Permanently Excluded from the Academy except in very exceptional circumstances. The possession or use of “legal” highs will also be treated in the same manner as illegal substances.

7. Any student who takes drugs on the way to and from school will be treated as having misused illegal drugs and, in the interests of the whole Academy community, will be subject to sanctions which could include permanent exclusion.

8. Any student who has been spoken to about suspected drug usage, both in and out of school, and has clearly been advised to ensure they do not bring drugs or drug paraphernalia into school, will be subject to sanctions which could include permanent exclusion, if the Academy deems it in the interest of the wider community in order to safeguard its students.

9. If drug paraphernalia, such as a grinder, bags having contained drugs, lighters, etc., are found on a student or in their possession, they will risk possible permanent exclusion.

10. Any student caught simulating the taking of drugs, e.g. smoking, snorting, tasting, etc., either in school or on the way to and from school, will also be subject to sanctions and possible permanent exclusion.

11. The Academy recognises that parents and outside agencies share responsibility for drugs education. Parents and carers will be kept informed through newsletters, awareness raising evenings and individual discussions where appropriate.

Guidance – Managing Drug-Related Incidents

A drug-related incident may be defined as an event involving one or more drugs which either requires further investigation and monitoring (e.g. awareness of solvent sniffing outside school) or requires immediate action (e.g. student found intoxicated or in possession or allegedly in possession of drugs).

1. Senior members of staff will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents and will ensure liaison with parents, carers and outside agencies. Beyond the immediate management of such an incident, appropriate staff will consider appropriate support for individuals coping with drug misuse.

2. Response to incidents will be prompt to ensure the safety of individuals and the school community. Appropriate first aid action will be taken where necessary.

3. Any student who has brought an illegal substance to school and/or is caught in possession of an illegal substance in school or during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, will be Permanently Excluded from the Academy except in very exceptional circumstances. The bringing in or use of "legal" highs will also be treated in the same manner as illegal substances.

4. All incidents will be carefully recorded, and records will be securely stored.

5. The misuse of illegal drugs is, by definition, against the law. All incidents will be reported to the police.