

Drugs Education Policy

1. Introduction

The JCB Academy is committed to the health and safety of its students and will take action to safeguard their well being. Students will be educated in a substance-free zone and alcohol, cigarettes, e cigarettes, shisha pens or non-prescribed drugs will not be permitted anywhere on academy grounds or whilst on educational visits. The academy acknowledges the importance of its role in the welfare of all students, and through the general ethos of the academy will seek to persuade those in need of support to come forward.

2. Aims

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by having access to accurate information, by challenging attitudes and by developing and practising skills.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of the use and misuse of substances.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

3. The Drugs Education Programme

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. Drugs education will be delivered through PSHEE and science, and opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The academy actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social care, and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. Visitors to the academy will be informed of the values held within this policy.

Prescribed medicines should be left in Reception with an authorisation document from the parent/carer and clear instructions.

4. The role of parents/carers

Effective communication and co-operation are essential to the successful implementation of this policy. We will actively involve parents/carers in drugs education and if contacted by parents/carers concerned about misuse of drugs by their son/daughter will give details of agencies that can offer support.

5. The roles of the Principal and the Governing Body

The Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents/carers, and appropriate outside agencies. The Principal will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained. The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matters concerning the direction of the academy.

6. Dealing with incidents

In instances involving substance possession, misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know the student well, parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Principal. The academy and the parents/carers can then work together to support the young person involved. Where it is known or suspected that substances are being brought into the academy, and/or being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved will be passed to the police. All incidents involving substances have extremely serious implications for academy life and the students concerned.

The following sanctions will apply to any student found in possession of drugs at the academy:

- Possession (first offence): Fixed term exclusion
- Possession for the second time: Permanent exclusion
- Dealing: Permanent exclusion

7. The media

In the event of an incident involving illegal drugs, the Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the academy will take appropriate advice and guidance from the police to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the academy.

Related policies/procedures:

Exclusion Policy, Medical Treatment of Students Policy

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