

The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse Policy

Version Control

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Policy approved by: Trust Board
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Version	Date	Details
1.0	15 th July 2019	Policy written to reflect the formation of The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust
2.0	12 th July 2021	No changes

Definition

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as:

“A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave”

This definition has been adopted by the Home Office and is the definition that applies within this policy and which therefore covers:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates
- All legal medicinal drugs (including ‘over-the-counter’ and prescription medicines)

Aims of this policy

The purpose of this policy is to:

- clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the schools in The Four Stones Multi Academy Trust (MAT);
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of all staff, students, trustees, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- clarify the MAT’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, trustees, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community;
- give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme;
- enable staff to manage drugs, alcohol and illegal substances on the schools’ premises, and any incidents involving such that may occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved;
- ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs, alcohol and illegal substances compliments the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the schools in the MAT; and
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the schools’ drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

Application

This policy applies to all persons using any of the school sites in the MAT; students, staff and visitors. It applies whilst students are travelling to and from school, during the school day (including break and lunch time) and during any additional times the school is legally responsible for the student. It applies on all residential and non-residential visits.

Role of the headteachers, trustees and governors

The Trust Board have overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation. This responsibility is devolved to the headteachers who are responsible for liaising with the Trust Board, Local Governing Body, parents/carers and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment of those staff within the school, who have responsibility for handling the implementation of the policy. The headteachers will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education

Drug, Alcohol and Substance Misuse education is taught partly via the science curriculum for students up to Year 11, and throughout the MAT by the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) curriculum.

We believe that if young people are not given accurate information about drug, alcohol and substance misuse in school, then they may obtain possibly dangerous misinformation from elsewhere.

The drug, alcohol and substance misuse education syllabus is revised from time to time, but always accords with the following principles, which all staff are required to follow:

- the legal context will be made clear, including prohibitions and maximum punishments;
- the zero-tolerance stance of the MAT towards drug, alcohol and substance misuse while under the MAT’s jurisdiction will be emphasised;
- realistic information on the effects and potential effects of drugs and other restricted or illegal substances, physical, psychological and social, will be given; and

- information about how drugs and other restricted or illegal substances are obtained or used will not be given.

During the course of drug, alcohol and substance misuse education, students may be encouraged to research and debate issues, examining both sides of controversial questions, but staff, whatever their private opinions, will clearly uphold these principles.

Sanctions

The MAT's jurisdiction covers students from the time they start from home to travel to school until they arrive home after school, and also covers all school-related events and visits. When the welfare of other students and staff is compromised, this jurisdiction may also cover actions taken by students when they are not at school or a school related event.

While under the school's jurisdiction, no student may at any time be in possession of a classified drug, alcohol, tobacco or other substance which may be similarly abused. This also applies to any drug paraphernalia.

▪ Drugs

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of an illegal drug/legal high or is caught in possession of an illegal drug/legal high (or any form of drug paraphernalia) parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the headteacher (or designated member of staff). Students will be sanctioned in line with the relevant school's policies. We reserve the right, in accordance with the current legal guidance, to permanently exclude any student in possession of illegal drugs/legal highs or drug paraphernalia, even for a first or one-off offence. Students selling or supplying illegal drugs/legal highs or drug paraphernalia will be permanently excluded. In all cases of illegal drug possession or the possession of drug paraphernalia, the police will be notified and criminal action may result. We recognise that a student who is abusing drugs needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the schools and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. Drug counselling, through the school nurse service will be offered, as appropriate.

▪ New psychoactive substances (NSP) (also called 'legal highs')

Students are forbidden to bring new psychoactive substances (NPS) into any school in the MAT. Since the Psychoactive Substances Act came into effect on May 26 2016 it has been illegal to supply any NPS in the UK for human consumption. The main effects of almost all psychoactive drugs, including NPS, fall into three categories: stimulants, 'downers' or sedatives, psychedelics or hallucinogens.

▪ Cigarettes, tobacco and matches

Students are forbidden to bring cigarettes (including electronic cigarettes), lighters or matches into any school in the MAT. Students are also forbidden to smoke (including using electronic cigarettes) on the way to or from school, while wearing school uniform, or on school visits. If found smoking (including using electronic cigarettes) or found in the possession of cigarettes (including electronic cigarettes), tobacco or matches, students will be sanctioned in line with the relevant school's policies. We recognise that any student who smokes, needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the schools and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse service to be counselled regarding giving up smoking.

▪ Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol onto the schools' premises or to drink alcohol on the way to or from school. If a student is suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or is caught in possession of alcohol, the student's parents/carers will be contacted. Students will be sanctioned in line with the relevant school's policies. We recognise that any student who abuses alcohol needs support. We would therefore hope that, in most circumstances, the schools and parents/carers can work together to support the young person involved. The student will be referred to the school nurse service to be counselled regarding alcohol abuse.

▪ Medicines and Legal Medicinal Drugs

Students are forbidden to bring any harmful drugs into any school in the MAT unless they are for medication. Please refer to the 'Supporting students with medical conditions' policy.

Searching and Confiscation

Under the Education and Inspections Act (2006) the headteachers and authorised staff have a statutory power to search a student or students or their possessions, without consent, where we have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images

- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
 - *to commit an offence*
 - *to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)*

The headteachers and authorised staff can also search for any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

Within the MAT, the rules also extend to:

- New psychoactive substances (NSP) (also called 'legal highs')
- Electronic cigarettes (also known as 'e-cigarettes' or 'e-lites')
- Mobile Phones, MP3 players and hand-held games consoles (if suspected of being used in contravention of the 'Mobile phone, MP3 player and Games Console policy')
- Chewing gum

Any student found to be in breach of any aspect of this policy will have the offending articles confiscated.

In most cases, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco and cigarette papers, mobile phone, MP3 player or Games console will be returned to the parent/carer (only) although depending on the seriousness of the offence, they may be surrendered to the police.

Illegal drugs, stolen items, pornographic images featuring children or any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used: to commit an offence to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student) will be surrendered to the police.

For regulations regarding searching and confiscation within schools, please refer to the DfE guidance at: <http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/advice/f0076897/screening-searching-and-confiscation>