

# **David Nieper Education Trust**



## **Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Substance Abuse Policy**

**This policy was originated by Emma Merchant,  
Assistant Headteacher – Pastoral and Inclusion**

**It was approved by Governors May 2018 and reapproved August 2018**

**It is next due for re-approval in Summer 2020**

Signed:

## **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **1. STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or body. The supply, distribution, possession or use of illegal drugs or 'legal highs' by members of the academy is unacceptable and not permitted. The same applies to the possession of paraphernalia related to drugs consumption. Alcohol consumption is prohibited.

The academy acknowledges that a positive academy ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community and in so doing helps to foster self-images which may help pupils cope better with situations involving drugs.

### **2. AIMS**

The academy aims through the curriculum and other areas of academy life

- a. To educate all the pupils about substance use and abuse in accordance with their age
- b. To provide all the pupils with accurate information about substances
- c. To provide pupils with access to advice and support if needed
- d. To increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse
- e. To widen understanding about related health and social issue
- f. To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices on the basis of knowledge

### **3. RESPONDING TO DRUG-RELATED INCIDENTS**

#### **Overarching Principle**

In all situations involving drugs, the main priority will be to ensure the safety and welfare of the student(s). This will include consideration of the risks to the student(s) with reference to the academy's Safeguarding Policy and DfE guidance on Keep Children Safe in Education.

- a. All situations will be considered before deciding on the response
- b. Pupils will be treated as individuals and each case taken on its own merits
- c. The needs of the child will always come first
- d. Parents and appropriate senior staff will be involved at an early stage and throughout any investigation
- e. Support agencies, including the police, will be involved if appropriate
- f. Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate
- g. Academy responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach
- h. The academy may place a pupil on a drugs testing programme.

#### 4. DISCIPLINARY RESPONSES

Situations which include breaking the academy rules on drugs will result in a sanction. The type of sanction will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. The academy employs a variety of sanctions related to the offence, e.g. community service, educational material to watch or read as well as to copy out specific facts about drugs and the possible consequences; Internal Exclusion, fixed term and permanent exclusions.

The following procedures should be taken for any instance involving smoking, alcohol or drugs:

- a. The name of the pupil should be given to SLT with the date, time and place of the incident.
- b. The student/s involved will be asked to hand over any items which they should not have about their person. If a student refuses to hand over any items a search may take place for any contraband paraphernalia as per the Academy Rewards and Behaviour Policy.
- c. SLT in consultation with the Headteacher will then decide on the course of action to be taken.
- d. If the pupil appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time SLT become aware of the incident, then the priority should be to ensure that they are safe and in no immediate danger to themselves or others. Appropriate medical advice should be sought at the earliest opportunity.

##### 4.1 SMOKING SANCTIONS

The sanctions below will come into effect if a pupil is caught smoking, has smoking paraphernalia or an e-cigarette type device when in our care, or in our David Nieper uniform.

- a. First offence: the pupil will be seen by SLT and spoken to about the effects of smoking and a letter will be sent home. They will write a statement of regret and prepare a visual presentation on the harmful effects of smoking to be presented to a member of SLT.
- b. Second offence: the pupil will be seen by SLT, spoken to about the effects of smoking and a letter will be sent home. They will be issued with a C4 detention.
- c. Third offence: the pupil will be seen by SLT and spoken to about the effects of smoking and the pupil may be given an Internal Exclusion of between 1 – 3 days. Parents will be informed either by telephone and/or letter.
- d. Subsequent offences: Continual offences may lead to a form of exclusion which could be Internal or Fixed Term.

##### 4.2 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS SANCTIONS

Any offence: the pupil will be referred to the Headteacher after a thorough investigation, who will decide on the course of action. In all cases, the Headteacher will consider their response in line with the academy's Safeguarding Policy. Ultimately, there may be a form of exclusion applied which could be Internal, Fixed Term or Permanent.

#### 4.3 SUPPORT

The support provided will vary according to the needs of the individual. Support may include:

- a. Educational material to watch and/or read
- b. Work units to complete
- c. Work with Mukti Agency Team and/ or other professionals
- d. Work with the Police
- e. Counselling
- f. Referral to school nurse
- g. Drug/ smoking and/or alcohol cessation or prevention programme

#### 5. INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES

If there is a drugs-related incident reported or a suspected drugs-related incident reported to SLT then a thorough investigation takes place in accordance with the Academy Rewards and Behaviour Policy. This will include seeing all pupils and/or staff involved and statements taken. With all the evidence gathered from this, a decision will then be made with regard to any appropriate sanctions. The police will also be informed with regard to the nature of the incident. The police themselves will then decide on any course of action they may wish to take which would be separate to any action the academy would take. The academy will take advice from the police with regards to any drugs that have been confiscated or any drug paraphernalia which has been confiscated from pupils.

At the start of the investigation parents/guardians will be informed that an investigation is underway and, once the investigation has been completed, will be informed of the outcome. The level of involvement of the pupil in the drug-related incident will determine the sanction to be applied.

If a pupil has been selling, giving or buying drugs to/for another pupil either in the academy or whilst taking part in a recognised David Nieper Academy activity or whilst wearing the David Nieper Academy uniform then this will lead to an automatic permanent exclusion.