

THE FRANCES BARDSLEY ACADEMY FOR GIRLS



Drugs Policy

This policy was ratified on November 2020

The policy will be reviewed November 2023

Introduction

- 1.0 The Governors and staff of Frances Bardsley Academy fully recognise the need to educate the students and help them develop into mature young women who can say no to drugs.
- 1.1 All staff and Governors believe that our academy should provide a caring, positive, safe and stimulating environment which promotes the social, physical, spiritual and moral development of the individual student.
- 1.2 The aims of this policy are:
 - 1.2.1 To enable students to make healthy, informed choice by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing skills
 - 1.2.2 To raise the awareness of through the curriculum of accurate information about substances and to increase understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug abuse.
 - 1.2.3 To provide a systematic procedure of dealing with students known or thought to be at risk of drug abuse

2.0 The Curriculum

2.1 Statutory Requirements

The National Curriculum states that students should be taught at:-

Key Stage 3 – that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health and that the body's natural defence may be enhanced by immunisation and medicine and how smoking affects living structure and gas exchange.

Key Stage 4 (14 – 16 year olds) – the effects of solvent, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions.

2.2 Non Statutory Guidance

Curriculum Guidance Five (Health Education) states that components for a health education curriculum involving substance use and misuse should build upon

“the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable students to consider the effects of substance such as tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on themselves and others to make informed and healthy decisions about the use of such substances”.

Teaching about specific drugs and their effects needs to be included in drug education, but life skills, patterns of use etc., are important to form an overall picture of the patterns of drug use. It is important to recognise that the teaching of drug education should incorporate three main areas of information giving.

1. The academy's drug education programme should recognise that students have varying levels of knowledge about the effects of drugs. It is important to recognise this and to tailor drug education to raise the students to a similar level of awareness about the basic facts, before a more sophisticated level of drugs education can begin. This should start from the primary academy and develop throughout a student's academy career.
2. Once this level of baseline information is established academy's should focus upon a skills based drug education package whereby students are given the opportunity to develop their own decision making skills in relation to the use of drugs. This should involve discussion around both legal and illegal drugs. The sophistication of discussion will depend on the student's age and ability, but all students should be given the opportunity to explore risk taking, decision making and life skills through a health package that is tailored to develop students' self-esteem and levels of morality and sense of responsibility.
3. A drug education package in any academy should focus upon a variety of students needs and should therefore look at:
 - not using drugs
 - reducing the use of drugs
 - minimising the harm that may occur to the individual/society whilst using drugs

2.3 Content of drug education programme

The teaching staff has access to a whole range of information and material through collaboration with local police, drug and alcohol agencies and health promotion professionals.

It is important to gain support from particular agencies that have an approach to drug education that complements that of the academy and who share the academy values.

Additionally teachers use sensitive teaching and professional judgement matching the needs and concerns of students in their class with an awareness of the wider issues which may include race/religion or experiences of parent/sibling drug misuse.

Teaching needs to offer a credible and consistent message. It has been shown that approaches which set out to shock or frighten ONLY may actually increase interest and encourage experimentation.

Students need accurate information on which to base their decision on drug misuse, this includes:-

- laws on drug misuse
- physiological and psychological effects
- a realistic account of implications of drug abuse for the individual their friends and family and wider society.

Students need skills to help them resist pressure and to develop positive images and attitudes to influence their behaviour.

Our aim is through a spiral curriculum not just to “tell” the students the facts but to develop their understanding and knowledge of the issues involved in drug misuse.

Due to the ever changing nature of the topic of drugs there are considerable implications for training and updating staff.

The drugs programme exists as an integrated part of the PSHCEE programme although the issues raised are often discussed in other subjects, i.e. Sciences, R.S. English, History and varying stages in the students’ academy career.

The academy is fortunate to have a strong pastoral team which supports the students, and parents/guardians in all areas including in relation to drug misuse. There is evidence that the trust which exists between staff, students and parents results in some self-referral and this enables early warning signs to be acted upon quickly. It is encouraging that the concern and care the students have for each other’s welfare often prompts them to talk to pastoral staff and informal intervention is then possible with information as to sources of expert and confidential advice being given.

The PSHCEE programme currently addresses the following issues related specifically to drug misuse, although this is reinforced by other activities which deal with peer pressure, self-esteem, growing up, responsibility, making decisions in a variety of situations and accepting responsibility for one’s own actions.

3.0 Procedures

3.1 If Drugs or equipment are discovered on academy premises:

Staff are required to:

- Take possession and store securely
- Inform senior member of staff as soon as possible
- (the senior staff member) will seek police advice re-identification of substance and safe disposal

In the event of a syringe being found it will be placed in a safe container (screw top coffee jar) and placed in a safe location prior to safe disposal – under no circumstances will a used syringe be placed in a waste bin.

3.2 A student is found in possession of drugs.

Staff are required to:

- Take possession of the substance and store securely
- Inform senior member of staff who will inform the parents or carers

- Seek advice from police re-identification of substance and safe disposal/other actions

3.3 If a student is thought to be in possession of a drug

Staff are required to:

- Isolate the student from peers and supervise at all times
- Inform a senior member of staff who will inform parents, carers or police as appropriate

The academy reserves the right to search the bag and locker of any student suspected of being in possession of drugs; to ask a student to empty their pockets.

If the student refuses, under no circumstances will any member of staff attempt to physically search a student.

3.4 If a member of staff suspects a student to be under the influence of drugs.

Staff will never treat intoxication lightly. The effect of any drug (including alcohol) on a student can be highly unpredictable. Intoxication or a suspected overdose (even if the student appears fit and well) will always be deemed a medical emergency.

Under no circumstances should an intoxicated student be disciplined until medical advice has been sought. Intoxication from solvent can be lethal if the student is suddenly shocked and the unpleasant (even horrific) effects of psychedelic drugs can be exacerbated by discipline with potentially catastrophic results.

Staff are required to;

- Inform a senior member of staff
- Keep the student as calm as possible
- Call for first aider; who will perform any first aid measures
- Ensure no other students are at risk
- Inform child protection, if child is 'at risk'
- Senior member of staff will inform parents, carers and police as appropriate

3.5 If a student discloses that they are using drugs

Staff are required to;

- Inform a senior member of staff, who will inform child protection team. If the child is 'at risk' and inform parents/carers

The student will be referred for appropriate advice and counselling (Drug Action Team)

3.6 If a student discloses parents or carers misuse/supply drugs

Staff are required to;

- Inform a senior member of staff
- Inform child protection team, if the child is 'at risk'

- Retain the child and notify senior staff if a parent collecting a child from academy (especially by car) appears intoxicated, (if unable to retain the child-telephone 999 and inform the police)
- Inform the child protection team

3.7 If the academy discovers that a student is ‘dealing drugs’ in the academy

Staff are required to;

- Inform a senior member of staff, (see above on – “student thought to be in possession of drugs”)
- Secure as much evidence as possible;
- Work with police to construct an action plan;

3.8 If the academy has concerns about local issues concerning drug use and abuse.

- The academy has an emergency action plan
- This will include assemblies and appropriate talk to all year group
- Workshops with the local drugs team, Addaction

3.9 If the academy has concerns that a member of staff is under the influence of drugs

Staff are required to;

- Inform the Heads of School or a member of the senior leadership team who will decide on an immediate course of action
- Keep the member of staff as calm as possible
- Call for first aider; who will perform any first aid measures
- Ensure no other staff or students are at risk
- Encourage the member of staff to seek help
- Senior member of staff to inform next of kin as soon as possible

4.0 Discipline

The academy views the possession of and use of drugs in academy as a health and safety issue for the student and other children on the site. We have zero tolerance of drugs. Permanent exclusion of the student is therefore recommended. Disciplinary action for staff will be decided by the Heads of School.