



Drugs Policy

Reviewed Date: September 2025

Next Review due: September 2026

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy demonstrate the Academy's commitment to the health, safety and well being of our students.

National and local guidance has been used to inform our policy.

- 1.2 The policy is aimed at all young people in our care and all who work for and are within the Academy community (all staff, parents/carers and governors)
- 1.3 Parents/carers, governors, staff and students were consulted in developing the policy

2. Academy's definition of Drugs/Substances

- 2.1 The word 'drug' or 'substance' will be used to cover medicinal drugs, legal drugs (including alcohol, tobacco, 'legal highs' and volatile substance misuse (solvents)) and all illegal drugs. The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: **A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.**

3. Responsibility for the policy/implementation

- 3.1 The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation in the Academy. This responsibility includes liaison with the Governing Body, the parents and the LA and other appropriate outside agencies.
- 3.2 Responsibilities
- Managing drug related incidents – The Head Teacher
 - Co-ordination of the Drugs Education programme – SMSC Curriculum Leader

- Policy develop and review – Governors
- Monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the policy – SMSC Curriculum Leader, Deputy Head Teacher pastoral, Senior Leadership Team, Designated Safeguarding Lead.

3.3 Relevant extracts from this policy may be published in:

- The Staff Induction Handbook
- The Academy website

4. Local and national guidance and support

4.1 The policy reflects Kirklees School Effectiveness Service guidance on drugs and is framed in the context of national guidance (Drugs: Guidance for schools 0092/2004)

5. The Academy’s stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students

5.1 Thornhill Community Academy has the health and welfare of individual students and the whole Academy community at the heart of its responsibilities.

5.2 The Academy recognises that we live in a drug orientated society where drug use has become commonplace. Drugs are used, legally and illegally, in both a social context, for example tobacco and alcohol, and in a medical context as prescribed and non-prescription drugs.

5.3 The Academy will not tolerate any substance or object, which may place the health or safety of any person at the Academy at risk.

5.4 The Academy acknowledges the important role of education ensuring that young people have all the necessary knowledge and skills to make informed and healthy choices regarding drug use, both now and in the future.

5.5 The Academy is committed to providing on-site support and advice for students through the Student Wellbeing Service which has bespoke support around substance abuse. This can be accessed through any form of referral – staff, student, parental or peer.

5.6 External support is provided by ‘The Base’, part of ‘Change, Grow, Live’ which is a free confidential drug and alcohol service for young people.

6. The purpose of drug education within the Academy

6.1 Drug education enables students to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating to their own and others actions.

6.2 Drug education will:

- Provide accurate information
- Build on knowledge and understanding
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users
- Develop understanding about rules and laws
- Develop interpersonal skills
- Develop self-awareness and self-esteem

- Explore risks and consequences
- Be relevant to the needs of the students and the Academy community.

7. The management of drug education

7.1 Drug education is delivered as part of the statutory SMSC curriculum. Further details are available upon request.

8. Training and support for staff

8.1 The Academy is aware of the need for all those involved with substance issues to be adequately trained and supported. The Academy will endeavour to provide training for all staff appropriate to their role in the Academy.

8.2 Staff should be aware of their responsibilities in implementing the policy (see section 10.8 – 10.11)

9. Assessing, monitoring and evaluating drug education

9.1 Drug education is monitored by the SMSC Curriculum Leader as part of the monitoring of teaching and learning within Academy.

9.2 Drug education is assessed and evaluated as part of the PHSCE curriculum by the SMSC Curriculum Leader.

10. Management of drugs at Academy

10.1 The Academy policy on drugs is summarised in the Staff Induction Handbook and the Academy website.

10.2 During the Academy day students **must not** be in possession of, or use:

- Cigarettes, cigarette lighters or matches
- Electronic cigarettes/ vapes and fluids
- Alcohol
- Solvents (aerosols sprays should not be brought to Academy)
- Any illegal substances (drugs)

10.3 The Academy day is defined as normal lesson time, breaks, lunchtimes, any Academy activities away from premises (trips, sport fixtures, etc) and extra curricular activities on the premises (including breakfast club).

10.4 The Academy recognises that some students may require legal drugs (medicines) that have been prescribed for a medical condition during the Academy day. Further details are available in the Academy's Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy. However, if it is discovered that students have been misusing prescribed medicines, the Head Teacher has the right to follow procedures set out for illegal drug use.

10.5 The Academy will normally involve parents/carers in cases of substance misuse and will involve appropriate outside agencies in any incident relating to illegal substances.

- 10.6** A student can expect to have put his/her place as a student at the Academy at very serious risk for any of the following offences as these may result in permanent exclusion from the Academy as per the Academy Behaviour policy and sanction system:
- Possession of a substance/drug
 - Using a substance/drug
 - Being under the influence of a substance/drug
 - Buying or selling substances/drugs
 - Offering or seeking to procure substances.
- 10.7** Thornhill Community Academy is a smoke free site for staff and students. Students caught smoking are subject to disciplinary action as set out in the Academy's Smoking Policy and Behaviour policy. Cigarettes and electronic cigarettes will be taken from students and destroyed.

Responsibilities of members of staff

- 10.8** Any member of staff discovering a suspected illegal substance should record the place, time, date and circumstances. If at all possible a witness will countersign this. Staff should not attempt to test the substance. Substances should be handed to the Head Teacher, or in his absence, the Designated Safeguarding lead or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.
- 10.9** When a student is discovered to have been using drugs, the first priority is to establish whether medical help is required. Contact a first aider in Academy. If in doubt contact the emergency services. Report the incident to a member of the Safeguarding team or a member of the Senior Leadership Team as soon as possible.
- 10.10** If a student is found in possession of a suspect substance (legal or illegal) they should be asked to give the substance to the member of staff. If a search of a students is deemed necessary then this is to be carried out by 2 members of staff, one of which should be SLT, following appropriate procedures. If a banned substance is found, the student must be referred to the Head Teacher. The substance must also be handed to the Head Teacher. Where consent is refused, parents/carers should be contacted to persuade their child to give consent. If this is unsuccessful, Police should then become involved.

Confidentiality – disclosure of drug use

- 10.11** If a student seeks guidance or support on a matter relating to drugs, substances, alcohol or smoking then they should be directed to a member of the Safeguarding team.

11. Academy Visits

- 11.1** Staff arranging Academy visits should make the rules regarding alcohol, tobacco and other drug use (including prescribed medication and non prescribed medication) very clear to students and parents/carers. They need to be made aware that a breach of these rules could result in disciplinary action or withdrawal from the visit.

12. Media

- 12.1 The Head Teacher will be responsible for any contact with the media. No other member of staff should speak to the media about drug related matters.
- 12.3 Any reporting of an incident is in the best interest of the student, his/her parents/carers and the Academy community.

13. Searching students and their possessions

- 13.1 The Head Teacher can authorise a search of students or their possessions (including bags and lockers) without their consent if there are reasonable grounds for doing so. The conduct of student searches is a power available to head teachers, not a duty. At present this power only applies to searching for weapons but as of 1 September 2010 the law is being extended to cover also alcohol, controlled drugs and stolen property.

Student searches may be undertaken by staff other than teachers, including staff employed specifically for this purpose, such as security staff. Teachers cannot be required to undertake searches of students.

Teachers can also instruct a student to turn out their pockets, and punish them if they refuse to do so. The police should be called where there is a potential danger or risk to the personal safety of the teacher or the student.

EQUALITY IMPACT AUDIT AND ACTION PLAN

Put X in the PLUS column to indicate if you judge that the policy has a positive impact on a group.

Put X in the neutral column to indicate if you judge that the policy has a neutral impact on a group.

Put X in the MINUS column to indicate if you judge that the policy has a negative impact on a group.

In making a judgement *due regard* has been paid to the requirement to:

- i. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimization

ii. Advance equality of opportunity					
iii. Foster good relations					
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS		PLUS	NEUTRAL	MINUS	ACTION
1	Age		X		
2	Disability		X		
3	Gender Reassignment		X		
4	Marriage and Civil Partnership		X		
5	Pregnancy and Maternity		X		
6	Race		X		
7	Religion or Belief		X		
8	Gender		X		
9	Sexual Orientation		X		
Other					