

Drugs Education Policy



Approved: June 2020

Responsible Officer: Trust Safeguarding Lead

Trust Ethos, Mission, Vision and Values



The Trust believes in the transformational power of education for each individual and that this is enhanced through collaborative working between the academies.



Working together, transforming lives

Contents

Section	
	Policy
1	Policy Statement
2	Scope and Principles
3	Drugs Definition
4	The Role of Staff
5	Teaching & Learning
6	Medical Conditions and Medication
7	Illicit Drugs
8	Smoking
9	Alcohol

Where the word 'Trust' is used in this document it refers to Archway Learning Trust.

Where the word 'Advisory Board' is used it refers to the Academy Advisory Board (AAB) of an individual academy within the Trust.

Where appropriate the AABs of individual academies will publish details of the procedures and practices to implement Trust policies.

Related Policies and Procedures

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Inclusion & Equality Statement (Students)
- Academy-level procedure documents
- Supporting Students with Medical Conditions

1. Policy Statement

1.1. As part of Archway Learning Trust's commitment to the Drug Strategy 2017 to reduce demand, restrict supply, build recovery, thereby supporting people to live a drug free life; the Trust acknowledges the part it can play through early identification, intervention and preventative education. The Department for Education (DfE) and Association of Chief Police Officers (APCO) Drugs Advice for Schools 2012 has been used to guide policy and practice.

1.2. Drugs definition

1.3. The term 'drugs' is taken to include all prescribed and over the counter medication, tobacco and nicotine products including e-cigarettes, alcohol and novel psychoactive substances (NPSs) or other highs, solvents glues or gasses or other intoxicants misused to get high, and illegal drugs as covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, the Psychoactive Substances Act and/or recognised by Public Health England (PHE).

2. Scope and Principles

2.1. This policy is for all staff, students, parents/carers, prospective parents/carers, Trust Board members, AAB members, visitors and partner agencies working within the Trust and/or any academy within the Trust.

2.2. This policy, in line with all other Trust rules and expectations of behaviour, applies not only within each academy's boundaries but on all visits, trips and residential visits, including those made outside of normal school hours. The school day includes the journey to and from an academy when wearing the academy's uniform.

2.3. In response to the 2017 Drugs Strategy, the Trust is committed to a healthy, preventative environment in all its academies, in which neither the misuse of drugs (including legal substances such as medicines, tobacco and alcohol) - by students, staff or visitors, nor the illegal or unauthorised supply of these substances is condoned.

2.4. The first concern in managing drugs and drugs incidents, is the health and safety of the academy's community and meeting the pastoral needs of students.

2.5. The Trust wishes to work towards being a DrugAware Trust in all aspects of life at our academies, meeting our responsibilities toward delivering the national 2017 Drugs Strategy, and providing an environment, ethos and curriculum that supports and prepares students for the choices they may be required to make in a world where drug use is commonplace.

DrugAware is an aspirational standard for schools and their communities, supporting them to address drug and alcohol issues through early intervention. It leads the way in making a real difference. The standard, set out for schools to build on existing work, helps to develop a more effective, evidence-based approach. With the participation of parents and pupils, DrugAware schools will have better, more robust drug and alcohol education, policy and support for vulnerable young people.

2.6. Through the curriculum and a supportive ethos, we aim to:

- provide accurate information about drugs, including medicines (over the counter and prescribed), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs;
- understand that certain people, with particular medical needs will use medication as part of their everyday life and that this is normal for them;

- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse, exploring the risks and consequences of each individual's actions as well as those of others;
- raise awareness of safety issues with regard to drugs;
- explore and clarify attitudes towards drugs, drug use and misuse and drug users, correcting misunderstandings, promoting positive attitudes and challenging harmful ones;
- develop students' understanding of rules and laws;
- develop and practise the personal and social skills necessary to make informed decisions in a range of social situations and settings;
- develop students' self-awareness and self-esteem as this may support them in making positive choices about their health;
- ensure that all members of the Trust and individual academy community can identify sources of appropriate personal support; and
- ensure relevance for the needs of students and the community.

3. The Role of Staff

- 3.1. Staff should recognise that professionalism involves using judgement over appropriate standards of personal behaviour with regard to drugs and alcohol, and that inappropriate actions could result in disciplinary measures being taken. This includes all teachers, non-teaching staff, Trustee Board members, AAB members, and partner agencies working within the Trust.

4. Teaching and Learning

- 4.1. It is important that staff feel confident in delivering drugs education and in implementing this policy. Each academy within the Trust will ensure that members of staff and the wider academy community are regularly consulted as to their training needs and training is provided as appropriate to keep up-to-date with developments in drugs education. Lessons are taught by tutors who all complete the relevant Continuous Professional Training. Students receive a programme of Sex and Relationships and Drugs Education from Year 7 to 11. Staff are aware that children come from backgrounds which reflect a range of values and experiences and that sensitivity will be needed.
- 4.2. Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of students and will be sensitive to their age and experience.
- 4.3. Teaching methods adopted in the classroom will aim to:
- offer a rich variety of opportunities for active learning;
 - incorporate a range of teaching and learning styles including group discussions, debates, role-play;
 - ensure access to comprehensive, unbiased and accurate drug information;
 - specify availability of relevant and appropriate advice and support;
 - ensure continuity and progression by visiting and revisiting issues as students develop and their needs change; and
 - consider the attitudes and values of students and a range of other significant groups in society towards drugs.
- 4.4. Due to the sensitive and sometimes controversial nature of the subject, ground rules will be discussed, negotiated and adopted. Confidentiality is achieved through setting ground rules or a group agreement at the beginning of the session. (For guidance regarding

confidentiality, referrals, and disclosure; and guidance for visitors and outside agencies, see academy-level procedures).

5. Medical Conditions and Medication

- 5.1. The Trust acknowledges that, parents and carers have prime responsibility for their child's health and should provide us with information about their child's medical condition when appropriate.
- 5.2. There is no legal duty which requires teachers to administer medication; this is a voluntary role and will only be called upon in exceptional circumstances. Where exceptional circumstances exist, a contract will be agreed between the Academy and the parent or carer and records kept appropriately. Where necessary, academy staff will receive training on specific medical conditions. Please refer to the 'Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy'.
- 5.3. Other than an inhaler, no students should be in possession of medication at any time. All necessary medication is stored securely in either the refrigerator or the labelled secure cupboard. Further details can be found in the academies parent handbook or equivalent.
- 5.4. Additional information will be provided by parents/ carers if students are going on trips or residential and a designated staff member will carry the medication and be responsible for it's safe storage and administration in line with the 'Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy'.

6. Illicit Drugs

- 6.1. Archway Learning Trust schools do their best to ensure that the school premises are safe from illicit drugs and have identified safety procedures.
- 6.2. The police will be involved in an advisory capacity where serious incidents occur but the school will deal with minor incidents internally as advised by the DfE/ACPO guidance. The school will be clear on how it will apply sanctions and support for serious or repeated offences involving the use or supply of drugs and alcohol, including options to involve police in prosecution.
- 6.3. As a Trust, all our academies have a role in early intervention with young people around drug use and so will prioritise intervention and behaviour change support for young people involved in incidents, making sure both they and their parents/carers understand the consequences and seriousness of their behaviour now and potentially on their future. **Parents/carers will always be informed of incidents unless there is a good reason not to (such as an ongoing investigation or a safeguarding concern).**
- 6.4. Incidents related to alcohol or illicit drug use, possession or supply will be dealt with robustly by the Academy in partnership with appropriate support and enforcement agencies, following their practice guidance. We acknowledge that in today's society it is likely that young people will encounter substances such as alcohol and cannabis and may even experiment with these things. Such lapses of judgement may be a one-off or transitory and evidence shows that early intervention is effective in forestalling further incidents, putting students back on track. The Trust recognises that substance misuse can sometimes indicate a deeper or complex set of problems or issues in a young person's life and will seek to explore the individual circumstances of any such incident before deciding what actions will be taken. We recognise that specialist intervention and support may be expedient in dealing with such incidents and have a working agreement with Journey Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service to provide early intervention by referral to our nominated Education Link Worker in school. Young people will always be assessed for referral where there is any

concern about substance use, regardless of any other sanction imposed, this will ensure the root cause of the behaviour can be addressed.

- 6.5. All Academies within the Trust seek to follow good practice guidance from the police (ACPO) and the government (DfE) that minor or one off incidents may be dealt with internally, ensuring that we employ the advice and support available to us, and employing permanent exclusions only as a last resort when other measures have been found to be ineffective. Where we apply temporary (or even permanent) exclusions we will try wherever practicable to use this time to implement a structured intervention, as evidence suggests that unsupervised periods of exclusion put young people at a greatly increased risk of escalating substance use, whereas early intervention has a high probability of eradicating the problem.

7. Smoking

- 7.1. All Archway Learning Trust Academies prohibit smoking, including e-cigarettes on the premises.

8. Alcohol

- 8.1 The use of alcohol on the premises of all Archway Learning Trust Academies is also prohibited, except for occasional adult functions out of school hours with the prior permission of the Trust.