

**GUILSBOROUGH ACADEMY
DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

Policy Name	Drugs Education
Owner	Vice Principal
Statutory	No
Authorisation	Principal to ratify, Trustees to note

Date Ratified	Review Due
January 2024	January 2027

POLICY

Guilsborough Academy recognises the effect of the use and misuse of drugs on individuals in society and the school’s role in reducing misuse. As part of the community, we seek to work with our partners and outside agencies to provide a safe environment in which our students and staff at Guilsborough Academy can lead and develop a healthy lifestyle. The Drugs Education Policy links into the Life Skills (PSHE)/Citizenship Policy.

Drugs Education

- Guilsborough Academy is committed to providing a quality, coherent and continuing drug education programme for all students. This programme is provided mainly through the Life Skills (PSHE) and Science curriculums.
- Drug education is co-ordinated, monitored and evaluated through the Life Skills (PSHE) programmes of study and is the responsibility of the senior member of staff responsible for oversight of Life Skills, currently Mrs Phipp, Vice Principal. The views of teachers are sought in planning appropriate lessons.
- The school will provide occasional information evenings for parents/carers to raise awareness about the use and misuse of drugs by young people.
- Teachers provide the major part of drug education, but, where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development including training days and INSET courses. Teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance annually.
- The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services and health and drug agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education. Outside agencies will be made aware of the school’s drug education policy where appropriate. Specialist organisations such as Service Six will deliver drugs education workshops as part of our whole school life skills days, based on their knowledge and understanding of the local context and local policing statistics.
- Teachers will make clear to students the consequences of drug use or supply within school and within society.

Statutory Duty of the School

The Principal takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies. The Principal will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.



The Co-ordinator for Life Skills has oversight for drugs education within the Life Skills schemes of work. The scheme of work has a flightpath of learning outcomes, with pupils in each year group receiving age appropriate and timely drugs education each academic year throughout their school life. The topics covered have been mapped against the DfE guidance on RSHE. Drugs education is part of the new compulsory Health Education curriculum.

The Vice Principal has responsibility for updating the Drugs policy with Trustees and dealing with drugs issues in school.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, 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 on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

Where and to whom the policy applies:

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, trustees and partner agencies working in Guilsborough Academy. It includes journeys to and from school, work experience, educational visits, working with external educational providers and anytime where a student is the responsibility or representing the school. Students must not bring controlled drugs, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes, vapes or accompanying equipment) or alcohol onto the school site at any time.

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.

The terms 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, are used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- All newly developed chemical substances intended to be taken for hallucinogenic effect, even if they are not included in drugs legislation
- All prescribed medicines when used by anyone other than the named patient
- All new psychoactive substances (NPS) are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classed as illegal under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 amended 2005.

The academy's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students:

Guilsborough Academy has a zero tolerance policy towards the possession, being under the influence of, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the school boundaries. If any student is found in possession of a suspicious substance, or related equipment, it will be taken from him/her. The Principal will be informed. The student will then be interviewed by a member of the Leadership Team. The police will be consulted concerning the nature of the substance. If it is believed to be an illegal drug, the student will be isolated immediately and his/her parents/carers called to the school as soon as possible. The Principal or designated member of staff will speak to them and the student can expect to



be permanently excluded. The illegal drug will be handed to the police who may prosecute the student.

Failure to comply with this policy will result in suspension or Permanent exclusion, as outlined within the schools exclusions policy. The management of drugs at school is consistent with the guidelines set out in 2018 DfE document called 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation.'

The school recognises that there are instances where other non-controlled drugs may legitimately be in school.

Medicines

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. Staffing, administration, storage and record keeping procedures are all clearly managed by pastoral support. School staff do not give non-prescribed medication to students unless supplied with written authorisation by parent/carer.

Volatile Substances

Some solvents or hazardous chemicals are legitimately used by school staff or students. These substances are stored securely (in line with COSHH regulations) and managed to prevent inappropriate access or use. Arrangements are set out in the school's health and safety policy.

Alcohol

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licencing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

In keeping with our duty of care, employees are not permitted to consume alcohol during the school day, or at any time when they will be subsequently supervising children. The school recognises that there may be occasions when a member of staff may experience difficulties in relation to alcohol misuse outside of school. Staff are encouraged to discuss this with line managers so that support can be put in place.

Tobacco

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society. It is an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products. At Guilsborough Academy we consider the use of e-cigarettes (commonly known as vaping) to come under this category.

The minimum age for smoking is 18 and schools are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises. The school can provide information and support for smokers to quit.

Staff Responsibility

At Guilsborough Academy all staff (teaching and non-teaching) have a responsibility to report any concerns to a senior member of staff immediately.

Drugs Education

The school delivers a balanced curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students at the school and of society
- Prepares students at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- Develops understanding of the negative impact drugs have on health and wellbeing, as outlined in statutory guidance on Health Education (RSE 2020)

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention and is an important aspect of the school curriculum. Its aim is to provide opportunities for students to develop their **knowledge, skills, attitudes** and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

It aims to:

- i. Increase students' **knowledge** and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:
 - The short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - The rules and laws relating to drugs
 - The impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - The prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
 - The complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- ii. Develop students' personal and social **skills** to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - Assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - Communicating effectively
 - Resisting pressures
 - Finding information, help and advice
 - Devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - Developing self-awareness and self-esteem
- iii. Enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

Drug education is delivered through a well-planned cross-curricular programme, including assemblies, Life Skills and science lessons.

At Key Stage 3 students learn more about the effects and risks of drugs and the laws relating to drugs. They learn the skills to recognise and manage risk and to resist pressures. They continue to develop the skills to make choices for a healthy lifestyle and learn about where to go for help and advice.

At Key Stage 4 students build on their knowledge and learn more about the effects of drug misuse on family, friends, community and society. They gain greater understanding through clarifying their opinions and attitudes in discussions and debate and considering the consequences of their decisions.

Teachers may need to focus more on developing students' confidence and skills to manage situations, which require making decisions about drugs. This may include developing competence to manage medicines responsibly, staying safe and understanding and managing feelings. Teachers will pay particular attention to enabling students to seek help and support when they need it.

Methodology and resources

- Drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment.
- Ground rules are set out, and teachers and students right to privacy is respected. Boundaries of discussions are made clear.
- Group agreements are made to help to foster mutual respect and an environment in which students feel comfortable and ready to listen to and discuss each other's opinions.
- Distancing techniques can be adopted through role play/anonymous question boxes.
- Staff are advised to sometimes answer difficult questions on an individual basis.
- A variety of teaching resources are outlined in the Life Skills scheme of work, with lessons mapped to meet the new health education requirement as part of RSE 2020
- External contributors may include the Police, the prison service, AQUARIUS and Service Six. The "Talk to Frank" website is also recommended.
- DFE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) Drug Advice for Schools



The role of trustees

The school trustees will review this policy annually.

Monitoring and reviewing of Drug Education

The teaching of drug education will be monitored and reviewed via the subjects within which it is taught. This will be completed through the school monitoring and evaluation policy.

Management of drugs at school

This is managed within the guidelines set out in the 2018 DfE 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation' guidelines.

Resources

- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools
- "Talk to Frank"
- Current Life Skills Scheme of Learning