



Drug Education and Incident Policy

Policy Updated: May 2020

Ratified by the Board of Governors:

Those involved

Co-ordinator – Candice Jordan and Rezzya Hussein

The Co-ordinator will keep updated with local and national issues and disseminate this information to the staff when appropriate. They will initiate the biannual review but should be supported by the senior management and a working party.

Supporting leader – Keri Edge

Supporting senior management will allow the Co-ordinator time and resources to remain abreast with current issue.

Lead Governor –

Will meet with the Co-ordinator to keep abreast of current issues and lead the governor's involvement in the biannual reviews of the policy.

Budget- The secured budget for the investment and renewal of drug education resources, staff training and use of outside visitors will be taken from the PSHCE budget.

1. Aims of the Drug Education and Incident Policy

The purpose of The Agate Momentum Trust is to enable every pupil to succeed. This can only be achieved if we all have the highest expectations of each pupil.

The aim of this policy is to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug misuse prevention and to help those who misuse drugs. This policy aims to give a clear view on the use of drugs in school and the importance of drug education. This policy emphasises The Agate Momentum Trust's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education. We aim to give clear guidance on handling any problems, should they arise, of inappropriate drug use within the school.

The Agate Momentum Trust does not allow the illegal possession or use of drugs (this includes drugs being brought to, sold, passed on or obtained) on the school premises at any time. This policy applies to all persons using school facilities, and to all students whilst members of the school community. Contravention of this rule is likely to result in disciplinary action, which could include expulsion.

The Agate Momentum Trust Aims to:

- protect the individual;
- maintain a positive school ethos of respect which supports self-esteem, enabling students to respond assertively and knowledgeably to situations involving drug use;
- provide clear and appropriate information to all students which will help them to make decisions about all drug issues and their consequences;
- work closely with parents on all matters to do with drugs, and particularly with regard to circumstances in which their own children are involved or implicated;
- work closely with the Police and all other relevant agencies through drugs education activities and courses, and when dealing with individual cases of drug abuse and misuse discovered at school;
- deal fairly and sensitively with all incidents involving drugs, ensuring that students are not put at risk and that illegal actions are stopped, investigated and resolved quickly and equitably.

This policy is part of our commitment to, and concern for, the health and well-being of the whole school community. The Agate Momentum Trust always aims to promote a healthy lifestyle, to enable students to perform to a high standard on a daily basis, for professional employment and for a lifetime of good health.

Counselling is always available within the school for anyone involved in experimenting with drugs or worried on behalf of themselves or their friends.

This policy should also be read in conjunction with the school's PSHCE policy, Health and Safety and Medical / needs policies.

If a pupil's safety is considered to be under threat, the Senior Designated Person (SDP) will invoke safeguarding procedures.

This Policy has been developed in consultation with representatives of:

- The Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
- The Governing Body
- Staff with specific responsibilities for drug issues

This Policy reflects the guidance of national bodies, i.e. DfE, SCODA, DoH.

All school staff, parents and pupils should make themselves familiar with the contents of the school Drug Policy, which will be displayed on the school web-site.

2. A Definition of Drugs

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and painkillers and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, LSD, cannabis, crack/cocaine and heroin and other illicit drugs young people may use, such as 'poppers'. Illicit or legal drugs which have no legal classification such as legal highs, but for which there can be no possible justification, for use or presence of within the school, will be treated by the school in the same way as all other substance abuse.

3. Drug Education and Drug Prevention

DRUG EDUCATION: Curriculum Provision

The overall aim of drug education at The Agate Momentum Trust is to equip students with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

OBJECTIVES:

The Agate Momentum Trust provides drug education within the PSHCE curriculum and through discussions, assemblies, workshops, external visitors and lessons. We educate pupils to understand that the use of illegal drugs is, or may be, a criminal offence; that it may harm their health; that it could damage their opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live. We aim to provide all pupils with up to date, accurate knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. Drug education also forms part of other curriculum subjects. We respond to pupils' questions and to opportunities to discuss issues concerning drugs as they arise. We believe that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the wider school community and in so doing, helps to foster positive self-images which may help pupils cope better in situations involving drug use.

4. Statement on the Use of Drugs in The Agate Momentum Trust.

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school visits, trips, fieldwork, performances or other occasions when the school, rather than parents, is responsible for pupils.

It is forbidden to buy, sell, possess, deal in and/or use the drugs covered by this policy in a school context, with the exception of medicines for the sole use of particular individuals. Any breach of these rules will result in an appropriate sanction, which could include permanent exclusion for pupils.

The school will provide a combination of the following to help support our pupils who are involved in drug incidents:

- Counselling through appropriate agencies

- Mentoring
- Supervised break times
- Involvement in extra curricular activities
- Family conferences
- Family Support Worker

The following is a list of the sanctions that may be initiated when a pupil is involved in a drug incident:

- Lose of privileges
- School community service
- Supervised break times
- Specific reporting times with AHT or Deputy Headteacher to monitor progress in class

Sanctions will always be used alongside the support and will be used in proportion with the offence.

Every incident will be recorded on a record of drug-related situation card (a suggested example is given in Drugs: Guidance for schools). These records will be kept in the main office. They will be treated as confidential records and only accessible to the child protection officer, Headteacher or their nominated representative.

It's generally good practice to investigate suspected drug use by a student by looking at factors such as:

- attendance to school,
- behavioural patterns,
- change in academic attainment,
- personal relationships with other students and staff,
- physical appearance,
- what is going on for them outside of school, such as possible family issues.

Talk to staff and the student concerned separately but keep the discussion general - avoid asking the student directly if they are taking drugs; this will often cause antagonism and denial. Monitor the situation until the evidence is strong. On a case by case approach, judge whether it is appropriate to inform the parents. It may be best to invite them in for a general discussion expressing concern about the student's progress or emotional wellbeing. Work together to put in supportive strategies for the student without focusing specifically on the students drug use unless they have admitted this. Always make information on confidential advice from outside agencies available to all students. Continue to monitor the student.

When dealing with a drug incident the relevant policies will be taken into account. These include:

- Confidentiality policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Child Protection Policy

(This will be especially important if there is concern for a child's health and safety and/or progress in school due to parents or caregivers drug dependency. In such cases the school will endeavour to provide extra support for the child such as:

- Involvement in after-school clubs

- Mentoring
- Counselling
- School nurse
- Home school liaison officer
- Providing appropriate literature for children of drug using parents and for the parent/caregiver. This may be done through:
 - Suggested involvement in a parent support group. (e.g. Triple P)
 - Providing appropriate literature
 - *(keeping open communication between the school and the parent/caregiver on the child's progress.)*

Permanent exclusion is a last resort, once all other support / sanctions have been tried and the health and safety of staff and students are at risk from the continued presence of the student involved. Evidence suggests that exclusion can leave a pupil at more risk of involvement with drugs and only a minority make a successful transition to another school. Therefore if this final step is taken the school will inform appropriate agencies that can give ongoing support to the student.

Principles to be Applied in Situations Involving Illegal or Illicit Drugs

In all situations involving illegal or illicit drugs the following principles apply:

- The Agate Momentum Trust will consider each incident individually, and there will always be careful consideration before the response is determined.
- A balanced view will be taken with regards to the needs of the pupil and the needs of the school community.
- The Pastoral system will be the first response if at all possible.
- Parents will be informed of an incident as soon as possible and kept informed of developments throughout any investigation.
- Support agencies will be involved if appropriate.
- Support for pupils will be maintained and counselling arranged if appropriate.
- Responses may include both a disciplinary and counselling approach.
- Illegal drugs will always be stored/disposed of safely.
- The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media, and the wider school community.

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy and for liaison with the Chairman of the Governors (or nominee), parents and other appropriate bodies.

5. Confidentiality

Pupils at this school need to feel able to talk to a member of staff about a drug-related problem without the fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of our students will always be central to our policy and practice. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will be treated in the same way as all other sensitive information. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people.

6. Parental Involvement

The Agate Momentum Trust believes that it is important to have the support of parents and representatives of the wider community for its Drug Education programme. Parents will be informed of the drug education curriculum. Parents will have access to this policy when their child enters the school, and this policy will be given to parents on request. Parents will be contacted if their child is found breaking the rules on drugs.

7. Use of alcohol and tobacco on school premises

- Consult with the whole school staff, parents, and students. Those staff wishing to stop smoking can access the Newham Smoking cessation service by contacting 020 8270 1301.

Our school is a smoke free space. No alcohol is allowed on the school site.

8. Caffeine Drinks

The possession and use of caffeine drinks such as “Red Bull” and “Relentless” on school premises during the working day is prohibited for all students. The use of “ProPlus” tablets is also not allowed.

9. Medicines

See Health and Safety policy and Medical/ needs policy.

10. DRUG/SUBSTANCE ABUSING PARENTS

The school recognises that a student may have a parent whose drug use (legal or illegal) is problematic. The student’s welfare in this case is paramount and the school will act, within legal limits, to support the student in a variety of ways, practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support have received guidance (and training) in this area. In such cases the school Designated Safeguarding Lead may invoke the Safeguarding Procedure.

11. TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR STAFF

All teaching staff should feel confident in their knowledge and delivery of the subject. They should understand the contribution drug education makes to the PSHE programme and to the personal and social development of their pupils. They also need to consider their own experience of, and attitudes to, drug use and what the collective standpoint of the school is.

The training needs of the staff will be monitored regularly as part of the triannual review of the Drug Education Policy. Basic training will be updated on a regular basis to all teachers of PSHCE. More detailed training will be made available to the lead for Drug Education in the school and

those that request additional support. Such training can be accessed through organisations such as Newham Rise Drug and alcohol service.

To ensure that lesson planning and delivery is in line with school policy, support for planning lessons can be accessed by PSHCE lead.

Drug education policy will be included in staff induction.

School grounds

The caretaker or any other staff that finds drug related paraphernalia in the school grounds should clear the area of children. Needles and the like present an infection risk and need very careful handling / disposal. Report any such find immediately to the Head teacher. The incident will be investigated as appropriate. Syringe disposal can be organised through the council.

Whole school approach

The following steps will be taken to ensure that there is a whole school approach that encourages ownership and a continued awareness amongst the school and wider community.

- Assembly topics
- Theatre in Education
- Health weeks within the school
- Notice board with current news, information, projects for local young people, and where they can get help and advice. (Agencies will be happy to supply information for this)
- Significant parts included in student handbook, parent prospectus etc
- Parent evenings on sensitive issues

Useful contacts:

- Turning Point (Drug & Alcohol Support Service + learning disability, mental health & employment)
<https://www.turning-point.co.uk/>
- Plaistow Community Police Team
Workshops on drugs and the law

Ph: 0207 275 5982

- Quit (Break-through)
Smoking cessation workshops and smoking information / education

Ph: 07940 4388115

**Drug and Alcohol Service for London
(including 'Spark')**

134-138 Romford Road
Stratford
LONDON E15 4LD

(Local drug service offering drug and alcohol structured day programmes, detox, reduction, counselling, domestic violence and family services for adults (18+). For young people offers lesbian, gay and specialist Bengali projects as well as children's fund work with 5-13 year olds).

ASATS

(Adolescent Specialist Addiction treatment service)

Bow Business Centre
0208 709 5880

(Professional referrals only)

Offer tier 3 and 4 treatment services for young people under 18 years.

CDT / ADDACTION

Newham Community Drug Team
Abbey House
361 Barking Road
London E13 8ee
0207 474 2222

Adult (19+yrs) treatment service offering a variety of interventions.

Children's Rights counselling service

0800 0152443

Text: 07854 085 966

Email: childrensrights@newham.gov.uk

(Free and confidential counselling service for Children Looked after aged 11-21).

HOT

Healthy Options Team
44 Balaam Street
LONDON E13 8AQ
0207 055 1500
Fax: 0207 476 6797

offer drop-in low threshold community based harm reduction services. They offer specialist services for drug users with complex needs including a needle exchange.

**Newham Specialist drug prevention worker for
Children Looked After
The Educational Support Team**

134 Church Road
Manor Park
LONDON E12 6HL
0208 553 5547

For substance misuse support, screening and initial assessment and brief interventions for children looked after.

Specialist substance misuse team

409 High Street
Stratford
LONDON E15 4QZ
0208 221 6000

Adult tier 3 service (18+). Offer assessment, care management and prescribing.
(professional referrals only)

TEENAGE HEALTH PROJECT

304 Romford Road
Forest Gate
LONDON E7 9HH
0208 221 2662

(Professionals referrals only : offers holistic advice / information services for young people)

TRIP

Ithaca House
27 Romford Road
Stratford
LONDON E15 ALJ
0208 221 8190

Freephone for YP in police custody : 0800 652 9575
(Arrest referral service for Young People ages 14-17)

U TURN PROJECT

St. Margarets House
21 Old Ford Road
LONDON E2 9PJ
0208 983 1553

info@uturnproject.co.uk

(Offers 1:1 support, information, advice and practical interventions for women co-erced into prostitution for 18+yr olds)

YAP

Newham Youth Awareness Program
311-313 Barking Road
East Ham
London E6 1LA
0208 552 7225

Provide tier 2 screening, initial assessments, treatment and counselling services for young people and also have a parent worker.

YOT

Newham Youth Offending Team
192 Cumberland Road
Plaistow
LONDON E13 8LT
0208 430 2351

Helplines & National Agencies/Services

Alcohol Concern
02007 264 0510

MIND Info Line
0845 766 0163

Alcohol Drink Line
0800 917 8282

NHS Smoking Helpline
0800 022 4332

Brook Helpline
0800 0185 023

Childline
0800 1111

Drugscope
0207 520 7550

FPA Helpline
0845 122 8690

Frank
0800 77 66 00
www.talktofrank.com

Release Heroin Helpline
0207 749 4053

Release Legal Helpline
0207 749 4053

SANELINE Crisis Line
0845 767 8000

