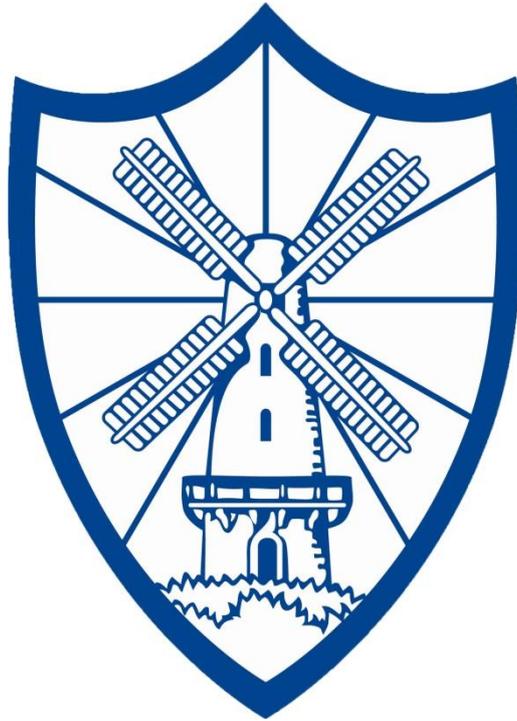


# Meopham Community Academy



## Drugs Education Guidelines

**Date:** January 2013

**Approved by Governors:** David Angus

**Next review date:** January 2017



## **POLICY ON DRUGS EDUCATION**

Drug and drug education in the context of this document are inclusive terms including tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, medicines and other substances such as solvents.

A teacher of drug education does not need to be an authority on drugs, as it is the life skills approach that is crucial to this area of learning.

Successful drug education should start early; the key to which is developing pupils' emotional intelligence, resilience and life skills. These same skills are crucial to successful Sex and Relationships Education and anti-bullying approaches.

This policy applies to all pupils, parents/carers, volunteers and staff members attending the academy or whilst on academy business including off-site visits and trips.

### **Substance Use and Misuse -**

- The academy condones neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the academy, nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- The academy is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well being.
- The academy acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.

### **Principles**

The academy is committed to the health and safety of all its members and believe that we have a duty to support and safeguard the well being of all its pupils and staff. The academy is committed to the principles of the National Healthy Schools Programme.

Effective drug education is an essential contributor to ensuring that all children and young people are able to reach their full potential and that the academy works towards the five Every Child Matters outcomes for all its pupils. Education about drugs is also important for the academy to achieve and maintain Healthy Schools status.



The academy values the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of its pupils, and through the general ethos of the academy, we seek to encourage and develop young people's learning and ensure support appropriate to their needs is accessible.

Education about drugs is not concerned merely with substance, but with people in their social and community settings. Therefore, drugs education should involve the development of attitudes, values and the development of skills, as much as the acquisition of appropriate knowledge.

### **Aims**

The academy will continue to meet the differing needs of all children. We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse -

- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues/crime.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of pupils' experiences in the taught and informal curriculum.

We deliver in the taught curriculum mainly through PSHE and Science but opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The academy actively co-operates with other agencies such as Police, Social Services, LEA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. Visitors who support the academy will be informed of the values held within this policy.



## **Staff Development**

This academy has an ongoing programme for professional development. Support and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, for all academy staff will be made available through training strategies provided by Advisory Service Kent, Kent's School Drugs Education Advisers and Healthy Schools.

## **The role of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies and for the appointment within the academy of a Substance Co-ordinator (Deputy Principal), who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The Headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

## **Substance Misuse incidents**

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises and following discussion between staff members who know the pupil well, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Principal. The academy and the parents can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a pupil/student has taken a drug, or there is reasonable evidence to assume so, a trained first-aider will be called immediately, and professional medical help sought where appropriate. If not, then another member of staff will be called for help and as a witness.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved but informing the Substance Co-ordinator is appropriate action. The Substance Co-ordinator should inform the Principal, who will inform the parents.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, an academy cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the supply or use of any controlled drug. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well as as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer or Community Affairs Department. If drugs are being sold in the academy we would inform the police immediately, initially contacting the Youth Crime Reduction Officer.



The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the academy.

The academy will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The academy will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other academy members and the local community. Permanent exclusion is seen as a last resort, as it may only transfer the problem.

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the academy will take appropriate advice and guidance, to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the academy.

### **Welfare of staff**

The Academy will follow the Kent County Council Policy on Drug and Alcohol Misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment

Any staff bringing unauthorised drugs to work or their presence at work in an intoxicated state (including while staff are 'on duty' on academy trips and activities off site) could be subject to disciplinary procedures and possible police prosecution. All staff have a duty of care to the pupils, therefore the Headteacher must be informed immediately. All staff are expected to report any other member of staff suspected of bringing drugs to the academy or being intoxicated at work. The academy will make every effort to support any member of staff in these circumstances and encourage them to seek appropriate professional help.

This Academy is smoke free, in line with national legislation effective from 1 July 2007. Staff smoking on the premises or who bring illegal drugs on to the premises will be deemed in breach of their contract. All staff are expected to adhere to the academy's Smoking Policy.





## **Links to Other Policies**

This policy is linked to other academy policies including:

- PSHE and Citizenship
- Sex and Relationships Education Policy
- Behaviour
- Inclusion
- Equal Opportunities
- Child Protection/Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Medicines and pupils with medical needs.
- Use of visitors in the classroom
- Smoking
- Confidentiality