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| Staffordshire University Academies Trust | | Trust Policy Document | | | |
| Approved by: | Trust Board | Issue date: | April 2019 | Review date: | April 2023 |
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| Audience: | Trustees <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pupils <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Local Academy Council <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Parents <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | | General Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | |

Drugs Education Policy

Purpose

The aim of the Drugs Education Policy is to acknowledge and clarify the Staffordshire University Academies Trust's (SUAT) role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. The policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, non-teaching staff and outside visitors.

A Drugs Education Policy ensures that SUAT takes a whole Trust approach on the issue of drugs as part of the commitment to our Academies attaining Healthy School status. Teachers need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils, who are concerned about drugs, need to be supported.

The policy aims to have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents are consistent with our academies behaviour policy.

Definition

Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.

SUAT believes that the possession and use of drugs in our academies or during the academy day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on SUAT academy premises or during the academy day, including when pupils are on trips and visits. These rules apply to adults working at and for SUAT. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

Drugs Education

SUAT academies provide a planned and appropriate drug education curriculum as part of PSHE and SMSC Education that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills. Drugs education will:

- enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- provide accurate information about substances
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use
- widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, STDs, HIV and AIDS
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- enable children and young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- where use and misuse is witnessed first-hand, support children and young people to report, in confidence, to a trusted professional

On the whole teachers teach drug education, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be aware of the SUAT Drug Education Policy. Teachers have access to on-going support

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and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed for quality and relevance.

SUAT Academies actively co-operate with other agencies such as community police, social services, the Local Authority and health and drug agencies to deliver their commitment to drugs education.

Statutory Duty of SUAT

The Principals of each academy take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Local Academy Council, parents, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The Principals will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

Implementation

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion between staff members who know pupils well, parents/carers will be informed at the earliest opportunity. Our academies and parents/carers can then work together to support the young person involved.

If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the teacher's discretion will be involved, but informing the appropriate pastoral person is appropriate action. That person should inform the Principal, and the academy will usually inform the parents/carers.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, SUAT academies cannot knowingly allow their premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, and also as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police.

The Local Academy Council will monitor drug education and drug-related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the strategic direction of SUAT academies.

Each academy will consider each substance incident individually and recognise 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 may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.

Regarding the welfare of staff, SUAT will follow the County Council Policy on drug and alcohol misuse, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The Principal of an academy will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, SUAT may 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 individual academy.

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Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Education Committee of the Trust Board will review this policy regularly and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout SUAT academies.