



## World Heart Beat Academy DRUG POLICY

### Rationale

It is the aim of the World Heart Beat Academy to help all youngsters be able to take their place safely in a world where drugs exist. All drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

### Aims:

- To support the endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the WHB community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency

### Key roles and responsibilities

The artistic director and operations manager are responsible for drug related issues within the academy drawing on a trustee to help with investigations and put the complaints procedure into action if appropriate.

### Inclusive definition of drugs

The WHB defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

### Drug Education

- **Ethos**  
Drug education in our academy aims to enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and be appropriate to the age and experience of our youngsters. We will endeavour to link with our students' schools to ascertain the sort of drugs education that our students would have had.
- **Content and delivery**  
This will be based on the information received from our students' schools. Some may need more guidance depending on what they have learned already. We would aim also to develop knowledge and values.

### Managing drug related incidents: routine arrangements

- **Alcohol**  
Students are not allowed to bring in alcohol to the academy. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises.
- **Tobacco**  
The WHB is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors- at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to the academy smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on academy premises, they will be confiscated.
- **Solvents**  
The academy will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.
- **Illegal drugs**  
No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on the premises.

## Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on academy premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Supply of drugs on academy premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession, supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession, supply or drug use

## Guiding principles

- A designated member of staff is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and reported to the trustees.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion from the academy.
- The academy will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses which is most appropriate. The appropriate response could be informing the parents, social services or the police or any other organisation that the academy deems appropriate. The academy will make a judgement depending on the severity of the drug incident.

## Procedures

- **Medical emergencies**  
If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the students' safety.
- **Individuals in possession of drugs**  
If any student or adult on the premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. Talking with an individual about a

drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations. Parents of students will be informed.

- **Support for students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered and parents consulted.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be investigated and recorded within 14 days.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection.

### **Staff training and support**

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise.

### **Links to other policies and advice documents**

Health & Safety policy.

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Appendix A to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Addition (change of law) to Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Complaints Procedure.

Drugs:advice for schools-Publications-Gov.uk

DfE and ACPO Gov.uk

Review date: Sept 2020