



THE CONSORTIUM
ACADEMY TRUST

Shaping Positive Futures

Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Learners)

The Consortium Academy Trust (TCAT)
An Exempt Charity Limited by Guarantee
Company Number 07665828

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Policy Owner (position)	Executive Director of Education
Statutory / Recommended	Recommended
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Linked Documents and Policies	Behaviour Policy Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy Health and Safety Policy Smoke Free Policy Physical Intervention Policy PSHE Policy Supporting Learners with Medical Conditions Policy DfE (2024) 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' The Children and Families Act 2014 The Education Act 2011 The Health Act 2006 Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the school's: Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

	Health and Safety Policy PSHE Policy Supporting Learners with Medical Conditions Policy Behaviour Policy Smoke Free Policy Screening and Confiscation Policy [Primary schools] Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy [Secondary schools] Secondary Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy
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**NB – This document can only be considered valid when viewed on The Consortium Academy Trust website. If the copy is printed or downloaded and saved elsewhere the Policy date should be cross referenced to ensure the current document is referenced. These policies can be found at www.consortiumtrust.co.uk*

Table of Contents

Statement of Intent	4
1 Key roles and responsibilities	4
2 Staff training	4
3 The Curriculum	4
4 Specific types of legal drugs	4
4.1 CIGARETTES AND VAPING	4
4.2 PRESCRIBED MEDICINES	5
4.3 SOLVENTS	5
5 Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol	5
6 Medical emergencies	5
7 Threatening behaviour	6
8 Searching	6
9 Controlled substances	6
10 Safeguarding	7
11 Child criminal exploitation (CCE)	7
12 Child criminal exploitation (CCE)	8

Statement of Intent

The Consortium Academy Trust takes a zero-tolerance approach to the misuse of drugs and alcohol on all premises. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

We are committed to:

- Upholding the Trust Health and Safety Policy and Procedures already in place at the schools
- Providing a safe and healthy environment which is conducive to the education of the learners in the schools.
- Providing a robust policy which outlines our zero-tolerance approach to drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Developing and improving the Policy by reviewing it regularly.
- Educating learners on the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse.

1 Key roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher, or their designated member of SLT, is responsible for dealing with any alcohol and drug related issues within the school.

2 Staff training

Early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive basic training in identifying learners who may be at risk as part of routine safeguarding awareness. For those staff directly involved in learner management or explicit drugs education higher level training will be made available. The availability may be online or in association with one of our partner agencies.

3 The Curriculum

[Primary schools] All learners will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the relationships and health education curriculum, in line with the Primary Relationships and Health Education Policy.

[Secondary schools] All learners will receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the RSHE curriculum, in line with the Secondary Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) Policy.

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the learners and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

Information about drugs and alcohol will feature regularly as part of pastoral education in the form of classes and assemblies. Where appropriate, expert visitors and external speakers will be sought to provide classes on drug and alcohol misuse.

4 Specific types of legal drugs

4.1 CIGARETTES AND VAPING

In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006 and the school's Smoke-free Policy, the

school is a smoke-free environment – this includes vaping.

4.2 PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

The school recognises that some learners may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional. Parents or carers have the primary responsibility for their child's health and the school will request all relevant information about learners' medical conditions from them.

Medicines will only be permitted to be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist, with the exception of non-prescription medicines, e.g. paracetamol, which may be taken in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

The school will only accept medicines which are provided in the original container as dispensed and include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage. Further guidance can be found in the school's Administering Medication Policy.

4.3 SOLVENTS

Learners will not be permitted to bring solvent-based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosol deodorants, compressed air and aerosol hairspray.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely, and learners will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them.

5 Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, learners found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be escorted to the Headteacher's office, where they will be assessed as to the course of action to take.

Parents or carers will be informed unless the school feels there is a safeguarding concern which means that telling the learner's parent or carer may put them at risk. Where the school determines parents or carers should be notified, they will be contacted and asked to remove the learner from the premises. The learner will remain in the Headteacher's office until their parent arrives. In the event the school chooses not to inform the learner's parents or carers, the learner will be taken to the school medical room or designated room, where they will be provided with the appropriate support.

If necessary, a search will be conducted in line with the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy. Sanctions will be implemented in line with the school's behaviour policy.

6 Medical emergencies

In drug- or alcohol-related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will provide care in line with the First Aid Policy. An ambulance will be called immediately if the casualty is seriously ill or it is believed their life is at risk. A staff member will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives. Other learners will be removed from the immediate area as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made as to whether an ambulance

will be called if the emergency services have not already been contacted. The learner's parent will be telephoned and informed about the incident.

An incident log will be submitted onto CPOMS.

If the learner is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will be followed, and social services will be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported to the HSE as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

7 Threatening behaviour

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by learners under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, the school will contact the police where necessary.

Any learner displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises. If a learner displays this kind of behaviour, their parents or carers will be contacted, and sanctions will be implemented in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.

8 Searching

Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the Headteacher to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the learner, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the learner is in possession of a prohibited item. Staff members may use common law to search learners for any item with their consent.

A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item under legislation or school rules. This includes "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.

All searches will be conducted in line with the Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy, and the Physical Intervention Policy where physical contact with a learner is required.

9 Controlled substances

Where the school is unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it will be treated as a controlled substance. Where a legal drug is identified, the school will consider if it is appropriate to inform trading standards or the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of such substances to learners in the area.

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation or find alongside the name of any witness(es) present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location with access limited to senior staff.

The incident will be reported immediately to the police, who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.

The school is not legally required to give the name of a learner from whom drugs have been

taken to the police. The school will consider, on a case-by-case basis, whether it is appropriate under the learner's specific circumstances to do so. All decisions will be taken with the best interests of the learner(s) involved in mind. Generally, names will not be given to the police where the school cannot be certain beyond reasonable doubt that the learner in question was the one in possession of the drugs.

A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the Headteacher on CPOMS.

Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the parents or carers of the learner, as well as local police, will be notified.

10 Safeguarding

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put learners in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a learner who is misusing drugs or alcohol, or where it is observed or suspected that their parents or family members misuse drugs.

Learners experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to learners in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

11 Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being coerced into moving, storing, and selling drugs across the country (known as county lines).

Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE for learners:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation.
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- Going missing from school and subsequently being found in areas away from their home.

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by learners may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which they have consented. The DSL will use their professional judgement to consider CCE as an explanation for a learner's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the learner's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

12 Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

Instances of learners being involved in drug and/or alcohol incidents will be managed in line with the relevant school policies, including the Behaviour Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Following an incident, the Headteacher will work with key members of staff, including the DSL, to assess the learner's welfare and support needs and decide on the most appropriate course of action to take. Referrals will be considered to local youth, family or health services, and voluntary organisations, to provide support.

The Headteacher will also be responsible for deciding if it would be appropriate to suspend or exclude the learner, following the provisions outlined in the school's Suspension and Exclusion Policy; however, every effort will be taken to support learners to adopt more healthy behaviours and choices before resorting to suspension or exclusion. Suspension or exclusion will be avoided wherever possible for learners whose parents or carers are known to the school to misuse alcohol and drugs.

Support will be arranged for learners involved in any alcohol- or drug-related incidents, in line with relevant school policies.