



CREATING A CLIMATE FOR GREAT LEARNING,  
SUCCESS AND OPPORTUNITY

# DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

**Approved at a Full Governing Body Meeting on: 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**Date of Next Review:** September 2026

**Responsible Officer:** Personal Development and Safeguarding Lead-AHO

## **1. Aim**

The aim of this policy is to clarify procedure and provision linked to effective drugs education in Benton Park School. This policy is informed by the views of our students and is informed by DfE and ACPO drugs advice for schools.

## **2. Ethos of Benton Park School in relation to drugs education**

The curriculum at Benton Park School aims to provide opportunities for all of its students to learn and achieve. As part of this, the school curriculum aims to promote students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development and prepare all students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life. Effective drugs education and incident management contributes to the overall ethos of the school. Drugs education is embedded in our Personal Development (PSHE) programme and all students take part in our drugs education lessons.

### **2.1 What are the aims of drug education?**

Drugs education at Benton Park School aims to help its students:

- To develop and maintain a healthy lifestyle
- Make informed decisions, learn how to plan and manage choices
- Know how to keep safe
- Clarify any misconceptions that may be held on drugs (legal and illegal)
- Discuss the risks associated with drugs use
- Explain the law on drugs in the UK
- Develop personal initiative and be able to take responsibility
- Recognise personal skills and qualities in themselves and others
- Maintain and develop healthy relationships
- Develop self-confidence and the motivation to succeed
- Develop assertiveness in appropriate situations
- Recognise risk and associated consequences
- Know basic emergency aid procedures and how to seek help if appropriate

### **2.2 Contribution of drugs education to the health and safety of students, their families and the wider community**

The National Curriculum makes reference to the importance of drugs education within the wider context of PSHE. The benefits of drugs education span the student, the school and the wider community. It is part of our statutory duty to promote pupil's wellbeing; preventing drug misuse and education on drugs is part of this duty.

Drugs education helps students to:

- Equip themselves with the skills to live in a society where drugs are readily accessible
- Deal with risk and meet the challenges of life now and in the future
- Develop skills, knowledge and attitudes that will enable them to make healthy and safe choices and lifestyles

- Achieve and raise standards in school through programmes aimed at increasing student motivation, self-esteem and responsibility

Drugs education helps Benton Park School by:

- Promoting health, wellbeing and safeguarding
- Having a more sophisticated response to drug related incidents
- Reducing exclusions through a more targeted approach to those in need
- Building on a positive multi agency provision
- Meeting the requirements of the Science National Curriculum at Key Stage Three and Four

Drugs education helps the wider community by:

- Creating healthier young people
- Developing informed young people who are able to make safe decisions regarding themselves and others

### **3. Definitions**

What is a drug? Current educational thinking agrees that a drug is “any substance which when taken changes the way that the body works or how a person behaves, thinks and feels”

The word drug throughout this document refers to:

- All medicinal and therapeutic substances which are legally available either by prescription or over the counter
- All legally available substances e.g. tobacco, alcohol, solvents and glues, poppers and e-cigarettes
- All substances which it is illegal to possess, use, purchase or supply including new psychoactive substances

### **4. Evaluation**

This policy will be evaluated every three years by the Governing Body to ensure it is still fit for purpose. Circumstances may necessitate more frequent modification.

### **5. Leadership**

## **PROCEDURES TO SUPPORT THE DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

The role of the curriculum leader responsible for drugs education

- Ensures continuity in teaching and learning and the monitoring of progression of all students
- Offers guidance on appropriate teaching and learning methods
- Develops effective links with specialist services and agencies
- Is an exemplar in the teaching of PSHE and drugs education
- Keeps up to date with local and national data, including relevant guidance
- Utilises student data to inform planning
- Audits staff training needs and respond to these with appropriate actions

- Liaises with the Head teacher to ensure the roles and responsibilities pertaining to drugs education are maintained

The role of the Head teacher

- The Head teacher has day-to-day responsibility for the premises and what happens there. Drug laws applying to the premises are relevant
- The Head teacher has responsibility for drug paraphernalia such as needles, syringes and broken bottles. She is responsible for issuing guidelines to all staff for their safe disposal
- The Head teacher has overall responsibility for the development and implementation of the schools drugs policy

The role of the drugs education teacher is to ensure that:

- All teachers are aware of the drugs policy
- All teachers know who the staff with responsibility for drugs related incidents are
- Teachers will provide young people with information and facts about the effects and dangers of drug use, but will not promote the use of any one drug
- Teachers will give young people a clear understanding of the consequences of drug use and how the law applies to drugs
- Lessons will teach the skills needed in appropriate situations including basic first aid procedures
- Teachers will deal sensitively with all students when teaching drugs education
- Teachers will give additional information (phone numbers, websites etc.) for individuals or a class on where they can obtain confidential advice, counselling and where necessary treatment

Staff should feel confident and committed to delivering lessons and use local police contacts where appropriate, and other agencies linked to the school.

### **Delivery of drugs education at Benton Park School**

Drugs education is taught in both Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four at Benton Park School by specialist teachers in Personal Development PSHE lessons. Drugs education is also component of the wider PSHE and enrichment programme. This is co-ordinated by the curriculum leader of PSHE.

Good drugs education shares many of the features of well-taught lessons in any subject. At Benton Park School as well as effective planning and monitoring a range of teaching strategies are employed. These teaching strategies relate to the age, stage of development, personal needs, family and religious and cultural background of the student.

Consideration is given to the following:

- Providing a safe, supportive environment, and establishment of ground rules
- Making the objectives and outcomes of the lesson explicit to the students
- Acknowledging the current stage of knowledge and understanding of the students

- Enabling students to express their real needs and contribute their own experiences
- Allowing for the exploration and clarification of attitudes and values
- Enabling students to develop skills in order to deal with drug related issues

Teaching strategies may include:

- Discussion and agreeing ground rules for working together
- Comparing viewpoints and clarifying attitudes and values
- Problem solving exercises
- Role play
- Considering moral and social dilemmas.
- Risk reduction
- Research presentations
- Assertiveness exercises

**Year 7:** Healthy Lifestyles and First Aid

**Year 8:** Legal and illegal drugs including binge drinking, smoking and vaping and nitrous oxide

**Year 9:** Illegal drugs linked to peer pressure, gangs and county lines. Healthy lifestyles including vaping and energy drinks

**Year 10:** Healthy relationships including the potential link between sex and drugs

**Year 11:** Independent living, assertive communication and why do we take risks? All in connection with drugs education.

Drugs education also forms part of Science, PE and Religious Studies lessons. Students who study GCSE Health & Social Care & GCSE PE will also look at the effects and risks of drugs.

We regularly promote drugs education through whole school assemblies and specialist lessons carried out by external speakers.

It may be appropriate to invite visitors into lessons to deliver key part of the drugs curriculum. Students regularly indicate that external visitors significantly add to their knowledge and understanding due to their expertise in certain areas across the curriculum. All visitors will be subject to the relevant safeguarding measures.

### **Managing Drug Related incidents**

Benton Park School has several nominated staff with responsibility for dealing with drug related incidents in the school environment. When an incident occurs, they will follow the procedures laid out in the School's separate Drugs Policy. Each stage of the process is to be recorded and may include the following: confiscation; disposal; involvement of the police; student needs assessment, all within the context of confidentiality where appropriate.

Staff should not deal with drugs related incidents themselves. They should pass on this responsibility to the nominated staff or the Headteacher as soon as is practicably possible.

## **Confidentiality**

Teachers cannot offer or guarantee absolute confidentiality. If a member of staff is informed of drug use or abuse he / she should follow school procedures, reporting concerns and see the designated teachers and staff for child protection, and / or the relevant Key Stage Teams.

Staff will always encourage students to talk to parents and carers and will give them support to do so. Students are also signposted to various useful organisations which provide specialist support for young people with regards to drug use. Please see below for some organisations that may be helpful to families.

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 02038179410 Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** is an independent charity which promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 hour helpline: 0300 123 6600 Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Smokefree** is an NHS smoking helpline offering free support.

Tel: 0300 123 1044 Website: [www.nhs.uk/smokefree](http://www.nhs.uk/smokefree)