



Drugs, Substance Misuse, and Drug Testing Policy

Issue Status: -

Date	Version	Comment	Owner
July 2021	1		Erica Brown
Sept 2023			Erica Brown

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Verified: Claire Everton Sept 2023

Approved: Academy Committee Dec 2023

Available policy on Website: ☒ Y

Review Date: Sept 2024



Aim

The aim of this policy is to state the rules relating to drug use and substance abuse at the Richard Barnes Academy and to provide guidelines for dealing with learners who fail to comply with them.

At RBA we aim to deter learners from using drugs. Staff will encourage and establish relationships with local children and young people's services, health services and voluntary sector organisations to ensure support is available to learners affected by drug misuse (including parental drug or alcohol problems).

Links to supportive national organisations are included at the end of this policy.

The staff at RBA will address drug and substance issues in three ways:

- We will inform our learners of the dangers associated with the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illicit and legal drugs and substances.
- We will attempt to instil enough self-confidence in our learners to be able to say no when they find themselves under pressure to try illegal substances.
- A sanctions system is in place designed to deter our learners from using tobacco, alcohol and drugs while they are enrolled at RBA.

School Response

The school rules relating to drug use are as follows:

- Anyone found to be supplying drugs or to be involved in any way with Class A drugs the police will be informed; anyone found to be in possession of or using cannabis or other illegal/legal substances (not pertaining to an existing medical condition) either at school or off site can be excluded for up to 5 days.
- Any learner that receives a Fixed Term exclusion will also have a referral made to either Aspire or CGL to receive appropriate support to minimise the risk of this taking place again.
- If staff suspect that a learner is under the influence of drugs or suspect their involvement, a decision will be made by a senior member of staff to inform parents.
- If the child is looked after, professionals involved will be informed.
- Where it is evident that a learner in school is under the influence of substances that have caused an intoxicating or hallucinatory effect, staff may seek the Head of School/ Principal discretion to inform parents or carers and issues of a Fixed Term



Exclusion on Health and Safety grounds.

- Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual learners concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take, schools should assess each case individually, considering the contextual safety and wellbeing of the child.
- Exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident.
- Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and RBA staff will be ready to involve or refer learners to other services when needed. It is important that staff are aware of the relevant youth and family support services available in their local area.

Searching for illegal substances:

The Richard Barnes Academy is not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search a learner. However, where possible, a member of the senior team will inform the individual learner's parents or guardians if alcohol, illegal drugs, or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.

If following a search, whether anything is found or not, the staff should make a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action. There is no legal requirement to do this but will be useful in offering support to the young person. Staff should record the search on Annex A of this policy. This can also be found in the RBA Handbook. The search should also be logged on MyConcern.

Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

Working with the Police

A Senior member of staff will liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents.

Legal Drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the Head of Campus / Principal will consider informing trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol, or volatile substances to learners in the local area.



Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances will be considered and dealt with as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs.

Staff will:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout.
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff.
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the learner from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so.
- Record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number.
- Inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the learner.
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support network for the learner.

General Power to Confiscate

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a learner's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the staff member finds other substances, which are not believed to be controlled drugs these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and



discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs.' If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Learners whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs:

RBA staff will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Staff are pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and in safeguarding learners. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a learner chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will follow the procedures set out in the child protection policy.

This will include protocols for assessing the learner welfare and support needs and when and how to involve other sources of support for the child such as Children's Services, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, the family.

Smoke free schools:

The minimum age for smoking is 18 and schools are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

Stakeholders will be aware that:

- The school is a smoke-free site.
- The school provides information and support for smokers to quit e.g., promoting access to smoking cessation classes, which may be provided on the school site.

The role of the Academy Committee & Committee Members:

The Academy Committee and Committee members are well informed on drugs issues as they affect the school. Members will be informed regularly on any issues that arise within the Richard Barnes Academy and the actions that senior staff and outside agencies are taking to support learners and families.



Useful organisations:

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.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: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk



National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk



Appendix A

Record of learner search
Learner name:
Date of search:
Reason for search:
Outcomes:
Police incident number if applicable:
Signature of staff present 1:
Signature of staff present 2:
Parent/carers informed:
If not informed, please give rationale:
Follow up actions including plan for support: