



# Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

## Ernest Bevin Academy

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Part of United Learning

**Responsibility:** Vice Principal

**Date Approved:** Spring 2024

**Reviewed by:** Principal

**Review Date:** Spring 2025

**Links to other Policies:**

PSHE policy

RSE policy

Behaviour for Learning policy

### Aims

1. This policy reflects the school ethos of a caring and responsible organisation which does not condone the use of drugs, alcohol or tobacco (DAT). However, the school accepts a duty to prepare and help young people to manage these issues.
2. To inform students about the use and misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
3. To make clear the school's stance on the possession, use, buying or selling of DAT.
4. To develop coping skills and enable informed choices for managing situations involving drugs, alcohol and tobacco.
5. To deliver Drugs Education in line with the Education Act, 1993, Circular 4/95.
6. To ensure that students of all abilities can access materials and teaching.

### Guidelines

1. Drugs education should be delivered in a manner which is sensitive to cultural and religious beliefs. At no stage should drugs education encourage drug use. Students should be helped to consider the importance of self-restraint, respect and dignity.  
  
They should show responsibility and sensitivity towards the needs of others. They should be able to recognise the physical, emotional and moral implications and risks of certain types of behaviour and to accept that all must behave responsibly in drug related matters.
2. Drugs Education is delivered by the Science Department, in tutor time and within PSHE (Personal, Social, Health, and Economic Education). Areas which are studied include facts about various types of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, the impact of these upon physical and mental health, the legal situation and why some people use drugs.
3. Drugs Education is taught by outside agencies and Academy teachers. Sensitive issues will be discussed in an open and honest way which is relevant both to individuals and to groups of young people and which reflects respect for all

groups in society.

4. Resources include: Textbooks, in house programme, videos, I.T, Curriculum Guidance and Health Education materials from outside agencies.
5. Advice/information is part of the in-house programme. Individually students are given advice/information when they approach teachers; this is done conscious of the need not to contravene what may be parents' wishes. Confidentiality is always observed, though teachers may have to make informed judgements about confidentiality and the individual student's needs and overall wellbeing. Tutors may be consulted, in confidence, where it is judged appropriate. The school nurse can offer a degree of confidentiality to all young people on a one-to-one basis.
6. Should a member of staff have concerns about a student in relation to misuse of drugs, alcohol or tobacco they should refer to the tutor, Head of Year or designated member of staff for safeguarding. Interventions and support will be organised and monitored through the school welfare panel and inclusion team. Where the school is concerned about a student potentially abusing drugs a referral to a specialist worker may be made.
7. The school accepts that drugs, alcohol, and tobacco are themes that young people need to be educated about in order to manage their lives and reduce risk. However, the school will not tolerate the possession, sale or use of these items on the premises, on a school journey or whilst travelling to and from school.
8. The PSHE curriculum will cover issues regarding substance use and abuse by students. They will work with professionals from other organisations to plan and deliver drugs, alcohol and tobacco education.
9. The Academy will include education regarding the health effects of vaping.

## **Implementation**

1. Drugs Education is taught by members of the Science Faculty and through PSHE programmes of study.
2. The approaches within the Science Faculty and within PSHE are distinct. The latter area places greater emphasis on the social context, whereas the Science Department takes a more biological approach.
3. For matters relating to inappropriate use, sale, or possession of drugs, please read the Academy's [Behaviour for Learning Policy](#). The school will act appropriately if a student is found to have breached clear boundaries in relation to drugs, alcohol or tobacco.

## **Evaluation**

This policy should be the subject of an annual review, through discussion with staff and students

