



# **SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY**

**September 2017**

# Substance Misuse Policy

## INTRODUCTION

Radius Trust is committed to providing outstanding educational opportunities for all our pupils and students. Part of that commitment is to provide a safe, welcoming and positive learning environment, which includes the freedom from drug and other substance misuse. This policy sets out Radius Trust's position on drugs and the strategies we will use to ensure that our pupils and students remain safe, are able to learn in an environment free of drug abuse, and are supported to make healthy choices.

This policy was developed with reference to the DfE publication 'DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools' (2012).

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Radius Trust is committed to:

- Supporting pupils/students to make healthy lifestyle choices;
- Educating pupils/students about their rights and responsibilities within society, including legal rights and responsibilities;
- Safeguarding of all pupils/students.

This policy is intended to provide a framework for dealing with issues relating to the misuse of drugs during school time. It clearly sets out how Radius Trust will deal with any incidents and identifies how the curriculum and ethos of each Radius Trust school underpins our actions.

The objectives are that:

- All staff and governors have an understanding of drugs and the issues that may arise from the use or abuse of substances.
- All staff and governors understand this policy and will follow the procedure when issues arise.
- All pupils/students develop an understanding of issues around drug use and know how to access information, help and support should they need it, whether within school or in the wider world.
- All pupils/students, families and staff understand Radius Trust's stance on drug misuse and the consequences of being involved in drug-related activity during school time.
- All pupils/students and families understand that Radius Trust has policies in place to keep pupils and students safe from harm and that these policies, procedures and systems are regularly reviewed to ensure they are appropriate and effective.

Radius Trust staff should understand that drug awareness is an important aspect of their safeguarding duties. Radius Trust aims to work alongside other professional bodies and agencies to ensure that our pupils and students are safe from harm and that they can access expert help and support at any time, should they require it.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Involvement in drug-related activity while under the jurisdiction of Radius Trust is an extremely serious matter.

For the purpose of this policy 'drugs' is defined as any legal or illegal substance that is ingested or applied for the purposes of inducing an altered state. It includes alcohol, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, volatile substances, anything that is or was designated as a 'legal high', certain permanent ink markers, all forms of medicines, pain killers whether prescribed or bought over the counter, and all other legal and illegal drugs. It also applies to glue, aerosol sprays and other substances where they are used as intoxicants. Involvement in the abuse of any such substances constitutes 'involvement in drug-related activity'.

Any prescribed medicines to be taken in school will be managed in line with the Supporting Pupils in School with Medical Conditions Policy. Abuse of prescribed medicines will be regarded as involvement in drug-related activity and action will be taken in line with this policy.

'Drug-related activity' includes sharing, attempting to share, ingesting, being under the influence of or otherwise using any substance with the intention of bringing about a state of intoxication. It also includes involvement in the purchase, possession, supply or intent to supply drugs as defined above.

'The jurisdiction of Radius Trust' applies to school premises and/or when it involves any member of the Radius Trust community during school hours, while pupils/students are on educational visits, at school events and other occasions relating to the school, and on any occasions when pupils/students are the responsibility of Radius Trust staff.

While this policy covers pupil/student behaviour and obligations with respect to drug misuse, it should be noted that Radius Trust is committed to providing a safe and suitable environment in which to learn and work and, as such, Radius Trust staff are expressly forbidden to engage in drug-related activity as defined above during work time. Please refer to the Staff Code of Conduct for further details.

## **DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITY**

Pupils/students are absolutely forbidden to engage in any drug-related activity while under the jurisdiction of Radius Trust, including when taking part in off-site activities such as school trips.

Any pupil or student who is found in possession of a drug while under Radius Trust jurisdiction will be in breach of this rule, even if they were not intending to consume the drug while under Radius Trust jurisdiction. Any pupil or student who is found or suspected to be under the influence of a drug while under Radius Trust jurisdiction will also be in breach of this rule.

Sanctions given for involvement in drug-related activity will be determined by individual provisions in line with the Positive Behaviour Policy and setting-specific sanctions procedures, including exclusion.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead at each provision will be the first point of contact for any drug-related activity or concern within that provision. The DSL will work with staff, parents/carers, local agencies (including the Police where necessary) and pupils/students to ensure that all concerns around drug use are acted upon swiftly and appropriately.

### **Illegal drugs**

In the event of a pupil or student being found in possession of, using and/or under the influence of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will be alerted. The DSL will inform parents/carers and the local Safer Schools Police Officer, and medical aid will be sought if necessary. The school will convene a meeting involving the pupil/student and other agencies as appropriate, as soon as possible, in order to discuss a suitable way forward. This may include referral to drug misuse counselling services.

### **Search and disposal in the context of drug-related activity**

Staff may request a pupil or student to empty their pockets and bag if there is reasonable cause to suspect that the pupil or student is in possession of a banned substance. Staff must always have another adult present as a witness, along with the pupil or student. Should the pupil/student decline, the Police will be called and the pupil/student observed in the meantime to ensure that they do not dispose of any substance.

Any suspect substance found will be confiscated by the member of staff and the second adult witness. All parties involved, including the pupil/student, will sign the appropriate statement witnessing the handover of the substance to the member of staff conducting the initial enquiry.

In the event of a drug-related incident the school will contact the Safer Schools Police Officer for immediate advice, and will act upon any guidance given.

The Police will be asked to oversee the disposal of any suspected illegal substance.

For further guidance please refer to the DfE publication 'Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools' (2014).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

## THE ROLE OF THE CURRICULUM

Part of Radius Trust's remit is to educate pupils and students to make healthy choices and live positive lives. In terms of education around drugs and alcohol, the desired outcomes are that pupils and students will:

- Have a greater understanding of the health risks associated with drug misuse.
- Have a greater understanding of the legal risks associated with drug misuse.
- Have a greater understanding of the disciplinary implications of involvement in drug-related activity while under the jurisdiction of Radius Trust.
- Have a greater understanding of the social implications of drug misuse.
- Have a greater understanding of how and where to seek support for issues relating to drug misuse.
- Be better able to resist peer pressure relating to drug misuse.

Drug education will be delivered primarily through PSHE or equivalent curricula. Other opportunities for pupils and students to discuss the implications of drug misuse may include assemblies, Student Council meetings, specific projects e.g. anti-smoking poster competitions, guest speakers, campaigns around drug misuse, roadshows.

Pupils and students have a named member of staff who they can speak with for support and guidance.

## USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: [www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**Childline** – Free 24 hour helpline for children or young people in trouble or danger. Tel: 0800 11 11 11

**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/](http://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/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/)

**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](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://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](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

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

## **RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Child Protection, Adult Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedure  
Staff Code of Conduct  
Supporting Pupils in Schools with Medical Conditions Policy  
Positive Behaviour Policy  
Exclusions Policy