

DRUGS & SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

FOREWORD

Freedom Foundation Alternative Provision, is a site for KS1 & KS2 Alternative Provision. They are referred to as Freedom Foundation AP/AP for the benefit of students and this document.

01 INTRODUCTION

This policy covers the use and misuse of all psychoactive substances by students.

Substances covered by the term drugs in this policy include illegal drugs, tobacco, alcohol, solvents and prescription or over-the-counter-medicines (used for purposes other than those for which they were prescribed/intended).

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: 'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'

Freedom Foundation AP considers itself to be a caring, supportive environment that values all individuals as equals. Freedom Foundation AP aims to actively discourage members of its Provision engaging in drug, alcohol, and substance misuse. Where appropriate, we will offer support and guidance to individuals at risk but will also adopt a zero-tolerance approach to the supplying of drugs to other members of the Provision and/or taking drugs on the premises. Training for staff members and volunteers should help to reduce the risks of drug abuse amongst the students. Involving parent(s) and carer(s) in such initiatives will help raise awareness and reduce the risks to family members.

02 AIMS OF THE POLICY

02.1 The students home school will be responsible for the delivery of any learning-based content in relation to Drugs and Substance Misuse for PSHE/RSE purposes and will not be a part of the Freedom Foundation provision delivery, however Freedom Foundation AP understand the importance of this content and will do what we can to support students whilst they are under our supervision.

02.2 The purpose of our Drugs & Substance Misuse Policy is to:

- To promote learners' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs. (This will be advised as part of the students PSHE/RSE at their home school)
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes learners may have regarding drug use and misuse.
- To provide opportunities for learners to be equipped with and practise the skills they need to avoid misuse of drugs. (This will be advised as part of the students PSHE/RSE at their home school)
- To help learners to distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse, benefits, and harm. (This will be advised as part of the students PSHE/RSE at their home school)
- Ensure that families and the community are informed of our policy.
- To establish procedures for responding to drug incidents.
- To provide an environment where learners feel safe in discussing their views/experiences of drug use/misuse.

03 Drug Education

03.1 Freedom Foundation AP recognises its duty to promote children and young people's wellbeing and is also required to promote pupil's moral, social and cultural development. As part of this the Provision has a responsibility to help young people manage risk, reducing the likelihood they may be harmed by use of legal and illegal drugs.

03.2 The aims of the Provisions drugs education learning, which is a part of PSHE/RSE is to:

- Increase knowledge and understanding, clarifying misconceptions about the short and long- term effects of drugs, laws relating to drugs, the impact of drugs on families, communities, and personal behaviour, the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers, and the moral, social, and emotional issues surrounding drugs
- Develop young people's personal and social skills to make informed decisions to stay safe and healthy including finding information and advice and devising coping strategies
- Enable young people to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use, and users.

03.3 Freedom Foundation AP will ensure that students learn about the effects and risks of drugs and the laws relating to drugs they will learn the skills to recognise and manage risk and to resist pressures. They will develop the skills to make choices for a healthy lifestyle and learn about where to go for help and advice.

03.4 Freedom Foundation AP will ensure that students build on their knowledge and learn more about the effects of drug misuse on family, friends, community and society and that they gain greater understanding through clarifying their opinions and attitudes in discussions and debate and considering the consequences of their decisions.

03.5 Drug Education will be delivered via the Science Learning and PSHE/RSE lessons supported, where judged appropriate, by external drug educators.

04 STAFFING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

04.1 All staff, including support staff, need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education learning and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities. Areas of individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development systems. This will be ascertained through staff performance management meetings and staff audits.

05 MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

05.1 A drug related incident is identified as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises.
- Learner/Staff member is found in possession of drugs.
- Learner/Staff member is found to be supplying drugs on school premises.
- Learner, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs.
- In all cases the head of provision and safeguarding leads should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

05.2 SUSPECTED INTOXICATION

If a student is found to be, or suspected of being, under the influence of drugs or alcohol a senior member of staff (SMS) will be notify the student's family and home school immediately. If the Provision is aware that the student is known to the local authority's children's services, the details of this incident should also be shared with the named social worker as soon as is reasonably possible.

To enable us to keep a safe and coherent environment, we would request that a parent(s)/carer(s) come and collect the student so as not to cause disruption on the Premises.

Freedom Foundation AP will work closely with the student's family and home school in order to get the best outcome for the student.

05.3 MEDICINES

Freedom Foundation AP has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Medical Policy.

05.4 ALCOHOL

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers, and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole provision. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the premises and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

05.5 SMOKING

Our premises are always a 'no smoking' site. Learners are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a learner be found in possession of

any of these on our premises, they will be confiscated, and parents/carers informed. Smoking on or within 200m of our premises will result in a Fixed Term Suspension. This also applies to “vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.

05.6 ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ‘PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES’

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on our premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy

05.7 SOLVENTS

Freedom Foundation will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and learners will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Learners are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto our premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy.

06 RESPONSES TO DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

06.1 Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a learner to remain in our provision would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the learner or others in the provision.

A member of the SLT will (normally) be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents. They will work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and will offer sources of support and liaise with the commissioner outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the head of provision.

All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

07 CONFISCATING AN ILLEGAL DRUG AND ITS DISPOSAL

07.1 Freedom Foundation AP staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our learners from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will contact the commissioner straight away and encourage the learner to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the learner refuses, the head of provision may decide to contact parents/carers and/or the police. We will always inform parents/carers if the police are to be called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our learners, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents/carers are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may seriously overreact and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies to safeguard.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal. We will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues.

We will keep a record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case and update the student's risk assessment.

08 REVIEW

08.1 We keep this policy under regular review

Review of this Policy: April 2025

Next Review Date: April 2026

Reviewed By: Laura Grant

Position/Role: Director of Freedom Foundation