



**John
Cabot
Academy**

Drugs Policy

Date Adopted: April 2017, John Cabot Academy

1. Introduction

John Cabot Academy is committed to giving students the opportunity to explore moral, cultural, spiritual, personal and social issues in order to develop well informed and confident students who are able to make appropriate choices. We also want to ensure that students feel safe and comfortable in their learning. A positive culture of respect is created and this helps form the basis of PSHE teaching and learning at John Cabot Academy.

John Cabot Academy does not condone the misuse of drugs and/or alcohol by all members of the school, nor the illegal supply of the substances. We have a responsibility to deal with drug related incidents and have set up procedures to deal with these. (See Diagram A.)

Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, novel psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified. The policy applies to all activities in school, school trips and visits and whilst students travel on the way to or on the way home from school.

2. Background

The vast majority of children and young people of school age have never used an illegal drug. While the number of school age children trying alcohol is falling, those who are drinking are drinking more. Most students will, at some stage, be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and a number will try tobacco. Some will continue to use on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a young person’s decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs.

Through education, it is important to cover the full range of harms associated with legal and illegal drugs, including alcohol and ensure that drug education aims to prevent these in a credible way. All students are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. We therefore fully acknowledge our responsibility to consider our response to drugs.

The aim of drug education at John Cabot Academy is to provide opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others’ lifestyles. This includes:

- the rules and laws relating to drugs
- the short and long term effects and risks of drugs
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- the impact of peer pressure
- how to seek advice
- addressing stereotypes
- analysing drugs and the media.

3. National Trends

Using Department of Health data, the national picture is as follows:

a. Smoking

3% of children aged 11-15 in England smoke regularly, at least one cigarette per week (2014). [1] On average, regular child smokers in England smoke 31 cigarettes per week.

Almost a fifth (18%) of children aged 11-15 in England have tried smoking at least once. Girls are around twice as likely as boys to smoke regularly.

Prevalence of regular cigarette smoking in children is broadly similar in Wales (4% of children aged 11-16 in 2013-2014), Scotland (2% of children aged 13 and 9% of children aged 15 in 2013) and Northern Ireland (4% of children aged 11-16 in 2013).

Cigarette smoking data is self reported so is likely to be an underestimate of the true prevalence in children.

b. Alcohol

The proportion of students who had never drunk alcohol rose from 39% in 2003 to 55% in 2010. Less than half (45%) of students aged between 11 and 15 said that they had drunk alcohol at least once in their lifetimes.

c. Drugs

Drug use among children (England) according to the National Statistics Office:

- In 2014, 15% of pupils had ever taken drugs, 10% had taken drugs in the last year and 6% had taken drugs in the last month.
- The prevalence of drug use increased with age. For example, 6% of 11 year olds said they had tried drugs at least once, compared with 24% of 15 year olds.

In adults:

- In 2014 there were 2,248 deaths which were related to drug misuse. This is an increase of 15% on 2013 and 44% higher than 2004.
- Deaths related to drug misuse are at their highest level since comparable records began in 1993.

4. Aims of the Policy

- a. The aims of this policy are to clarify the responsibilities of the school taking into account local and national guidance and to:

- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Respond to any individual within the school community in need of support.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.
- Establish an atmosphere/environment/situation in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs.
- The policy applies on our site and when students are in uniform travelling to/from school, or in the vicinity or the JCA boundary. The Principal will be the final arbiter on this matter.

b. Definitions

**A drug is a substance, which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel,
the way we see things and the way the body works.**

The policy covers a range of drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, and illegal drugs.

The school will ensure that potentially harmful substances are stored safely, and students supervised carefully in the event of them having to be used in the course of their work.

5. Our Role

Our school takes the lead to promote students' wellbeing. We understand that we have a role to play in preventing drug misuse and we will educate children and young people as part of our pastoral responsibility.

We aim to

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information.
- Where necessary, use the powers of search and confiscation in line with Government guidance.
- Work with local voluntary organisations, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.

In response to this issue:

We have:

- Developed our drugs policy which sets out our role in relation to all drug matters – this includes the content and organisation of drug education, and the management of drugs and medicines within school boundaries and on school trips.
- Designated the Assistant Principal (Student Support) as the member of staff with responsibility for the drug policy and all drug issues within the school, working with suitably trained partners and colleagues.

- Developed this drugs policy in consultation with the whole school community including students, parents/carers, staff and governors.
- Established good relationships with local children and young people's services, health services and voluntary sector organisations to ensure support is available to students affected by drug misuse including parent/carer drug or alcohol problems).
- Identified supportive national organisations and included them at the end of this policy.

6. Procedure Following an Incident

We are well placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs issues in our school. We ensure this is effective by:

- publicising this policy to the whole school community;
- ensuring that drug education is part of a well planned programme of education delivered in a supportive environment, where students are aware of the school rules, feel able to engage in open discussion and feel confident about asking for help if necessary;
- staff having access to training and support.

The school will consider each incident individually and employ a range of responses to deal with these. Parents/carers will be informed about the incident as soon as the facts of the case have been established.

a. Cigarettes (Tobacco)

- i) Cigarettes or other smoking product (such as 'vaping' equipment) must never be brought into school.
- ii) Any student who is found smoking or is with a group of students that are found smoking will be referred to the Assistant Principal (Student Support) and an appropriate internal punishment issued.
- iii) Repeat offences will be dealt with by using the sanction of fixed term exclusion. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.
- iv) If a person passes or sells cigarettes to another student then they will be excluded. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.

b. Alcohol

- i) The school and its premises are alcohol free zones. The school does not allow any alcohol to be consumed on school premises without prior authorisation for pre-arranged social gatherings for adults sanctioned by the Headteacher. Anyone found to be in breach of this rule will be dealt with by the Assistant Principal (Student Support) and/or the Principal.
- ii) Any student who is found with or under the influence of alcohol will be referred to the Assistant Principal (Student Support) and appropriate medical assistance sought in the first instance.
- iii) Any student who is found with or under the influence of alcohol will be dealt with by using the sanction of fixed term exclusion. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.
- iv) If a person passes or sells alcohol to another student then they will be excluded. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.

c. Solvents/Chemicals

- i) Solvents/Chemicals are hazardous to health. Students are not permitted to bring solvents into school. This includes correction fluid and pens, 'Tipp-ex' thinners or glue. Students **are** permitted to bring felt tip pens to school. All members of staff are responsible for the safe storage and use of solvents in their classroom. Where possible, these should be locked away when not in use. This includes glues and paints. Cleaners and premises staff should also ensure that their stores are locked when not in use and that solvents are held in a secure place
- ii) Any student who is found with or under the influence of solvents/chemicals will be referred to the Assistant Principal (Student Support) and appropriate medical assistance sought in the first instance.
- iii) A student who is found with or under the influence of solvents/chemicals will be dealt with by using the sanction of fixed term exclusion. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.
- iv) If a person passes or sells solvents/chemicals to another student then they will be excluded. Persistent offenders may be permanently excluded.

d. Drug Related Incidents

Specific cases will be dealt with as shown in Diagram A.

- The Academy Council will be informed of any drug related incidents.
- The Principal will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.

Any student who is proven either to have supplied an illegal substance (drug) to another student or to have used an illegal substance (drug) during the course of a school day, during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains, may be permanently excluded (expelled) from the school, subject to the relevant procedures.

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual students concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take, we will follow our Behaviour and Engagement policy. Additionally:

- When dealing with such issues we will also be mindful of DfE Exclusion Guidance.
- Drug use can be a symptom of other problems. We will also be ready to involve or refer students to other services when needed. This would usually be as a result of consultation with parents/carers.
- Sources of advice and local services are listed at the end of this policy.

7. Searching and Confiscation, the 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 student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the person 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 novel 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.

8. Involving parents/carers and dealing with complaints

- We are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek their consent to search their child.
- There is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search, but we may do so.
- We will normally inform the individual student's parents/carers where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.
- Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.

9. Working with the Police

A member of the school's Leadership Team will liaise with the police from time-to-time to discuss a range of community based issues.

10. Legal drugs

The police will not normally need to be involved in incidents involving legal drugs but we will inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area or inappropriate use or supply of legal drugs.

11. Managing Medicines

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. These are managed in line with locally agreed guidance and in consultation with parents/carers and other medical professionals.

12. Controlled drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, we will endeavour to:

- 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 student 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 student;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

13. Drug Dogs and Drug Testing

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) recommends that drug dogs should not be used for searches where there is no evidence for the presence of drugs on school premises. However, we may choose to make use of drug dogs or strategies if we wish.

14. Intervention

We will work with parents/carers to help with identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying will aim to distinguish those who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs.

a. Students whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs

We will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. We will also be pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and in safeguarding the children in our care.

Screening is important in assessing needs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue:

- we will assess the student's welfare and support needed;
- we may consider asking for support of support for the child such as Children's Services;
- we may approach external support services and, where appropriate, the family.

b. Confidentiality

We will have regard to issues of confidentiality (although staff cannot promise total confidentiality to students). More information on confidentiality can be found in Working Together to Safeguard Children.

15. Tobacco – Smoke Free Schools

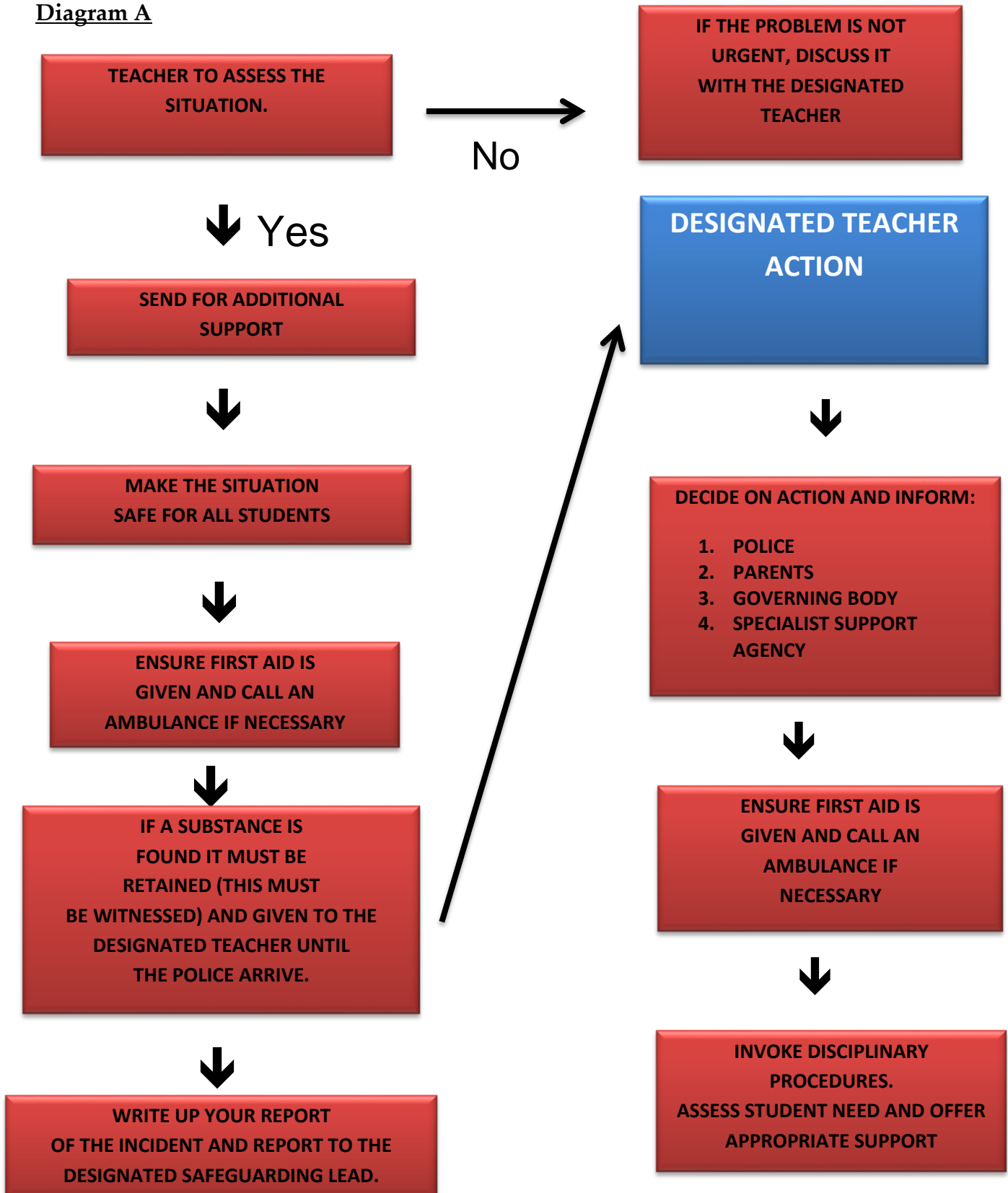
We are subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises but go further:

- 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.
- Children and young people should understand the non smoking policy.

Appendix A

Teacher Action in the Event of a Drug Related Incident at John Cabot Academy

Diagram A



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.

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

Website: 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

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) is a campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Drinkaware is an independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimize 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 (DEF) A forum of national organisations in England which provide drug education to children and young people or offer a service to those who do.

Tel: 020 7739 8494 Website: www.drugeducationforum.co.uk

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 77 66 00

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 wellbeing of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives is 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>

Project 28 The project's staff team seeks to provide holistic packages of care to young people in the BANES area with problematic substance misuse support needs.

Contact: Bob Haynes, tel 0797 371 1361 haynes@in-volve.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>

Directgov Young People can help young people with information and advice on issues relating to health, housing, relationships with family and friends, career and learning options, money, as well as helping young people find out about activities they can get involved in.

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm>

Youth Offending Teams Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/global/contacts/yjb/yots/index.htm>

