



ALTERNATIVE PROVISION

Drugs Policy

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Approved by: [RAISE-AP Educational Directors](#)

Approval Signatures

*RAISE-AP
Directors*

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Statement

The philosophy of the provision is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all students are enabled to develop their learning and personal skills. We strive carefully to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives, and this policy has been written in accordance with this philosophy.

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, vapes, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Aims

- To support the provision's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole provision approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum

This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines and been informed by relevant research data. The legal definition of premises for the provision includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the [RAISE-AP](#) at the time e.g. premises of a trip or visit.

Medicines

RAISE-AP has a policy / procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Hampshire Health and Safety guidelines.

Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal day. Students 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 / carers will be asked to collect their children.

Smoking and Vaping

RAISE-AP is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to the provision smoking materials, including matches, lighters and e-cigarettes.

In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on premises, they will be confiscated and parents / carers informed.

Illegal Drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to or used on the provision premises.

Solvents

RAISE-AP will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work.

Students are not permitted to be in possession of 'sniffable' products

Response

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on provision premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on provision premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on provision premises
- Presenting side effects of drug consumption as defined by the policy
- Supply of drugs on provision premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

RAISE-AP is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in The Right Responses.

The Head of Provision will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the **RAISE-AP** educational directors.

All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to automatically conduct a wider investigation.

Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with DfE guidance on exclusions. A case conference will be called if necessary. Each case will be assessed, and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.

Individuals in Possession of Drugs

If any student or adult on provision premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, whenever possible without risk to others. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the provision may wish to contact a police officer for discussion. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored.

Parents / carers will normally be informed (for a student) and other professionals such as the LA, Youth Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Secrecy can never be promised to a student, if a student is at any risk of harm. If a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken, and preventative work will be done to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk, and parents / carers' support will be sought.

Support

At **RAISE-AP** the welfare of the student is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable students to continue to benefit from continued education around substances and misuse are preferable to exclusion. Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through our pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the provision feels a student is showing signs which indicate risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents / carers. Such interventions may include consultation with parents / carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral to agencies for support such as our ELSAs, counsellor or Catch 22 / Handy Trust.

RAISE-AP reserves the right to suspend students who bring drugs on to the site and who share / deal drugs to other students. This sanction would be accompanied by support and educational strategies. Permanent exclusion from provision is a last resort, as we recognise that permanently excluded students become significantly more vulnerable to drugs than those within formal schooling. However, sharing, dealing or taking substances on the site would risk the sanction of lengthy or permanent exclusion and

the police and other relevant agencies will be referred to in any such cases.

Searches, Confiscation and Liasison

In line with current legislation the Head of Provision reserves the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

Parents / carers will always be informed when this has happened.

If inappropriate articles are brought into the provision or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept securely in the for appropriate follow up according to this or other policy such as our Behaviour Policy. If these items are dangerous or illegal they may be handed to the Police for safe disposal.

RAISE-AP works closely with local police, social services and local schools in the Hampshire Safe partnership. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Restorative Justice Conferencing, group work and education as well as links with home. Parents / carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of action should be taken

Raise Values

Our **RAISE-AP values** (Resolve, Attitude, Invest, Social Skills and Education) are key in everything we do, specifically with attitudes (modelling and expectations), invest (tailoring setup for our young people) social skills (becoming part of a community) which are linked to our Drugs policy.
