



**Atlantic Academy**  
Part of Athena Learning Trust



**Bideford College**  
Part of Athena Learning Trust

# Atlantic Academy & Bideford College

## Drugs and Alcohol Policy

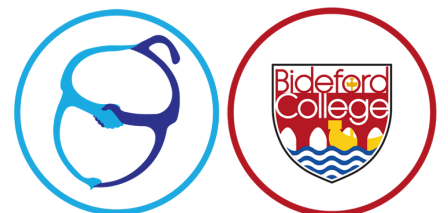
### **Review**

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## **Statement of intent for pupils and staff**

Atlantic Academy & Bideford College takes a zero-tolerance approach to the misuse of drugs on our premises. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs.

We are committed to:

- Upholding the Athena Learning Trust Health and Safety Policy.
- Providing a safe and healthy environment which is conducive to education.
- Providing a robust policy which outlines our zero-tolerance approach to drug misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug misuse.

## **1. Legal framework**

1.1 This policy has due regard to relevant legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006

1.2 This policy has due regard to relevant guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2025) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'

1.3 This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the Trust and individual school policies:

- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- The PSHE programme of study
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Procedure

## **2. Key roles and responsibilities**

**The principal is responsible for:**

- 2.1. The day-to-day management of this policy.
- 2.2. Providing a safe environment for all staff, pupils and visitors.
- 2.3. Working with governors and trustees to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.

- 2.4. Informing the trustees, via the designated safeguarding governor, of any issues and developments concerning drugs.
- 2.5. Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs.
- 2.6. If appropriate, and where doing so will not place the child at risk, informing parents of any drug related incidents concerning their child.
- 2.7. Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- 2.8. Informing the police of any drug or alcohol related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.
- 2.9. Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug incidents.

**The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is responsible for:**

- 2.10. Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs.
- 2.11. Ensuring that staff and pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- 2.12. Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs education.
- 2.13. Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- 2.14. Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- 2.15. Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

**Pupils are responsible for:**

- 2.16. Ensuring they do not bring drugs onto school premises, travelling to and from school or whilst engaged in any offsite activity representing the school.
- 2.17. Ensuring they do not take drugs whilst travelling to or from school or at any time whilst wearing the school uniform.
- 2.18. Contributing to the development of this policy by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the drugs education provided, and on how incidents are managed.

**All staff (both teaching and support staff) are responsible for:**

- 2.19. Reporting for work, and remaining throughout the day, in a fit and safe condition to undertake their duties.
- 2.20. Ensuring that their performance and judgement at work is never impaired by drugs.
- 2.21. Ensuring that they are in a fit and safe condition during the on-call period.
- 2.22. Understanding how this policy relates to them and their role in drug management.
- 2.23. Attending scheduled training concerning drugs, including how to spot the signs and symptoms of use and dependency, identifying paraphernalia and how to respond to a drug related incident.

**The site supervisor is responsible for:**

- 2.24. Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug, nicotine and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the **DSL**.

2.25. Adhering to current relevant guidance at all times when handling needles found on school premises.

**External agencies are responsible for:**

2.26. Supporting the school with drug issues as required.

**3. Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, a “drug” is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

All illegal substances;

Alcohol;

Nicotine products;

Solvents;

Medicines (excluding where it would be detrimental to the person’s health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school); and

legal highs

**4. Staff training**

4.1. We recognise that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, teachers will receive training in identifying pupils who may be at risk annually.

4.2. Teachers and support staff will receive formal training during the induction process.

4.3. Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

**5. Drug education**

5.1. All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs as part of the PSHE/IAG curriculum.

5.2. drugs will feature regularly as part of pastoral education in the form of classes and assemblies.

5.3. Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be differentiated according to individual learning styles.

5.4. Where appropriate, visitors and external speakers will lead classes on drug misuse.

**6. Smoking**

6.1. In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006, the school is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields and sheltered areas.

6.2. Parents, visitors and staff must not smoke or vape on school grounds and must avoid smoking or vaping in front of pupils and/or encouraging pupils to smoke.

6.3. Pupils, including sixth form pupils over the age of 18, are not permitted to bring smoking or nicotine products onto the premises. This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, lighters, matches and pipes.

6.4. In the interest of health and hygiene, smoking and vaping will not be permitted around the school gates.

## **7. Legal drugs and prescribed medicines**

7.1. Refer to the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy.

## **8. Solvents**

8.1. Pupils are not permitted to bring solvent-based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosol deodorants, compressed air and aerosol hairspray.

8.2. The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them.

8.3. More information can be found in our Health and Safety Policy.

## **9. Persons found to be under the influence of drugs**

9.1. Staff members found to be under the influence of drugs whilst on school premises will be disciplined in line with their contract of employment.

9.2. Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs on school grounds will be escorted from the premises. The principal has the authority to ban persistent offenders from the school.

9.3. Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils found to be under the influence of drugs whilst on school premises will be removed from class and escorted to the principal's office, where they will be assessed.

9.4. The pupil's parent(s)/carer(s) will be contacted and appropriate steps will be taken in line with the suspension and exclusion procedure.

9.5. The pupil will remain in the principal's office until their parent arrives.

9.6. If necessary, a search will be conducted in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **10. Medical emergencies**

10.1. In drug related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned.

10.2. A teacher will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives.

10.3. Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area as soon as is reasonably practicable.

10.4. Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made as to whether an ambulance will be called.

- 10.5. The pupil's parents will be contacted and told about the incident.
- 10.6. An Unauthorised Drug Use Reporting Form will be completed.
- 10.7. If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services will be contacted.
- 10.8. All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported to the HSE as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.
- 10.9. The Medical Emergency Procedure will be followed at all times.

## **11. Threatening behaviour**

- 11.1. Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils, staff or visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously.
- 11.2. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, the school will not hesitate to contact the police.
- 11.3. Any pupil, staff member or visitor displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises.
  
- 11.4. In the case of pupils, parents will be contacted, and pupils will be disciplined in line with the school's Behavioural Policy.

## **12. Searching**

Refer to the school's Behaviour Policy.

## **14. Support**

- 14.1. The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues; therefore, led by the DSL, staff and pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- 14.2. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Social, Emotional and Mental Health procedures.

## **15. Discipline**

- 15.1. Pupils involved in drug, nicotine and/or alcohol situations on the school premises will be disciplined as per the school's disciplinary procedure and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.
- 15.2. Where a pupil is involved in a drug and/or alcohol situation, the principal will decide if it would be appropriate to exclude the pupil, following the provisions outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy.
- 15.3. Teachers and other staff members involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on the school premises will be disciplined as per their contract of employment and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.
- 15.4. Visitors involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on the school premises will be banned from entering school premises indefinitely and, where appropriate, the police will be informed.

## **16. Monitoring and review**

- 16.1. This policy will be reviewed every three years.