



**The Ilfracombe Church
of England Academy**

Part of Athena Learning Trust

The Ilfracombe Academy Drugs and Alcohol Policy

Review

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Contents:

Statement of intent

1. Legal framework
2. Key roles and responsibilities
3. Definitions
4. Staff training
5. Drug education
6. Smoking
7. Legal drugs and prescribed medicines
8. Solvents
9. Persons found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol
10. Medical emergencies
11. Threatening behaviour
12. Searching
13. Controlled substances
14. Support
15. Discipline
16. Monitoring and review

Appendices

Statement of intent

Ilfracombe Academy takes a zero-tolerance approach to the misuse of drugs, alcohol, vapes and tobacco 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, alcohol, vapes and tobacco.

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 drugs, alcohol, vape and tobacco misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug, alcohol, vape and tobacco misuse.

Legal framework

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

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'

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
- Administering Medication procedures
- Behaviour Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Procedure

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, alcohol, vape and tobacco.
- 2.5. Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs, alcohol, vapes and tobacco.
- 2.6. If appropriate, and where doing so will not place the child at risk, informing parents of any drug, alcohol, vape and tobacco 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, alcohol, vape and tobacco 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, alcohol, vape and tobacco.
- 2.11. Ensuring that staff and pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- 2.12. Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs, alcohol, vapes and tobacco 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 illegal or prohibited drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco 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, vape, smoke tobacco or consume alcohol 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, alcohol, vaping and tobacco 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, alcohol, vapes or tobacco.
- 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, alcohol, vape and tobacco management.
- 2.23. Attending scheduled training concerning drugs, alcohol, vapes and tobacco, 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 and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the **DSL**.
- 2.25. Adhering to current guidance at all times when handling needles found on school premises.

External agencies are responsible for:

- 2.26. Supporting the school with drug, alcohol, vape and tobacco issues as required.

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 drug training during the induction process.
- 4.3. Teachers and support staff will receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

Drug education

- 5.1. All pupils will receive regular guidance on drugs, alcohol, vape and tobacco as part of the PSHE/IAG curriculum.
- 5.2. Drugs, alcohol, vapes and tobacco 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, alcohol, vaping and tobacco misuse.

Smoking/Vaping

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.

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

Tobacco

Solvents

Medicines Legal highs

Vapes

6.2. Parents, visitors and staff must not smoke on school grounds and must avoid smoking 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, vapes, e-cigarettes, lighters, matches and pipes.

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

Legal drugs and prescribed medicines

7.1. We understand that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor or other health professional.

7.2. Parents have the primary responsibility for their child’s health and should provide the school with all relevant information about their child’s medical condition.

7.3. Medicines should only be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child’s health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

7.4. The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist.

7.5. Medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed and must include the prescriber’s instructions for administration and dosage.

7.6. Further guidance can be found in the school’s supporting students with medical conditions policy.

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.

Persons found to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco.

9.1. Staff members found to be under the influence of drugs, alcohol, vapes or tobacco 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, alcohol, vapes or tobacco 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, alcohol, vapes or tobacco 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 will be contacted and asked to remove the pupil from the premises.

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

9.6. If necessary, a search will be conducted.

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.

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

- 12.1. Staff members may use common law to search pupils for any item with their consent.
- 12.2. Staff members may ask any pupil to turn out their pockets.
- 12.3. Staff members may search any pupil's backpack or locker.
- 12.4. Under part 2, section 2 of the Education Act 2011, teachers are authorised by the principal to search for any prohibited item including, but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette papers, vapes, illegal drugs and alcohol, without the consent of the pupil if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item.
- 12.5. Staff members may require a pupil to remove outer clothing including hats, scarves, boots, coats and scarves.
- 12.6. Pupils' possessions will only be searched in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.
- 12.7. Searches will be conducted by a same sex member of staff with another same sex staff member as a witness, unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not conducted immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff.
- 12.8. Staff members may use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for alcohol, illegal drugs, vape or tobacco products.
- 12.9. Any staff member, except for security staff, may refuse to conduct a search.
- 12.10. Staff will consider the additional needs of pupils with SEND before using reasonable force.
- 12.11. Staff will adhere to the Physical Restraint and Reasonable Force guidelines when carrying out searches.
- 12.12. A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified.

13. Controlled substances

- 13.1. The school has a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs.
- 13.2. Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation alongside the name of any witness/witnesses present.
- 13.3. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location.
- 13.4. The incident will be reported immediately to the police who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols.
- 13.5. The school will not hesitate in giving the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken.
- 13.6. A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the principal.
- 13.7. Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- 13.8. Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, the

parents of the pupil, as well as local police, will be notified.

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 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 two years by the Board of Trustees.