

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education

The Rye Academy Trust holds ultimate responsibility for all decisions regarding the running of the individual Academies. In accordance with this responsibility, where appropriate, Rye College may refer matters covered by this policy to the Rye Academy Trust for advice or decision.

Policy for	All staff, students, parents/carers, governors
Overall responsibility	Principal
Date of next review: May 2015	Monitoring, evaluation and revision: Principal is free to determine
This policy needs to be read in conjunction with the following policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Behaviour • Child Protection and Safeguarding • Health Education • Special Educational Needs • Health and Safety

1. The College’s stance towards drugs

Rye College condones neither the use of illegal substances, alcohol or tobacco nor the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over-the-counter medicines.

The College has a zero-tolerance approach to students bringing drugs on to College premises or handling drugs whilst on College premises. As set out in the Behaviour Policy the expected sanction for students who are involved in dealing, possessing, taking, holding, bringing legal substances and substances which are legal but which can be misused on to site, will be permanent exclusion. In all cases, the College will carry out a detailed and thorough investigation of the individual circumstances which will result in exclusion for a fixed period in the first instance.

The College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to encourage pupils to make informed decisions in order to promote a healthy lifestyle.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Understand how a substance-free zone is maintained and the protocols to follow should drugs or alcohol be found on the premises.
- Develop in students the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle;
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

3. The drugs education programme

All students are given access to the drugs education programme which is fulfilled through aspects of the students’ experiences in the taught curriculum by:

- Teaching the subject as part of the personal, social and health education (PSHE) programme in science and at drop-down days;
- Contextualising the role of drugs and drug taking in society with a local and national perspective;
- The definition of drugs and their misuse;
- Identifying the risks to health, both psychological and physiological;
- To communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals to learn how to give and secure help;
- To comprehend the programme in light of the objectives above.

And in partnership with other agencies, such as:

- Community police;
- Social Services;
- Health and drug advisors.

4. College premises

When Rye College is hired by external agencies, they will be reminded that, as a school, we are a substance-free zone. Although we are licensed for the supply of alcohol by hirers, external agencies are responsible for clearing away after themselves.

Under the Health Act 2006, smoking is banned on the entire estate and staff, students and external hirers are not permitted to smoke on these premises.

5. Dealing with substance misuse incidents

Rye College does not tolerate the misuse of substances by its students or staff and those found to be involved in substance possession, misuse, or supply on the premises, following a thorough investigation of the circumstances will face disciplinary procedures which should be expected to lead to permanent exclusion.

If a student is found to be involved the Student Behaviour Policy stands.

Where an incident occurs, staff will:

- Ensure the safety of all concerned;
- Investigate an allegation thoroughly, handing over to the police at the appropriate time;
- Consult with other colleagues, parents/carers, police or other agencies, as appropriate;
- Keep a written audit of events;
- Dispose of any substances safely, or hold them securely until the police can take them away, keeping a written report of actions taken;
- Handle any media enquiries professionally;
- Review each case and reflect on learning for future events.

Where a student seeks support relating to drugs, alcohol or smoking and is not in contravention of the Behaviour Policy, the Student Support Manager and Assistant Principal will provide the student with appropriate support. At that point the issue will be treated in the same way as a child protection disclosure.