

THE GDST ACADEMY TRUST

Drug and Substance Abuse Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with other related policies including the Academies' Behaviour Management Policies and Exclusions Policies.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The GDST Academy Trust operates both The Belvedere Academy and the Birkenhead High School Academy ('the Academies').
- 1.2 The GDST Academy Trust's policy is set out below. Each Academy may also have more detailed policies for dealing with drug or substance abuse, consistent with this policy.

2. Policy

2.1 The GDST Academy Trust's policy on drugs is as follows:

- To assist parents, through the education provided to pupils, in the prevention of drug or other substance abuse;
- To have in place clear disciplinary procedures for dealing with any drug-related incidents, or abuse of other substances;
- To provide pastoral care and support for all pupils within the context of a whole school community.

3. Disciplinary sanctions

- 3.1 The possession, use or supply of drugs in schools or in school-related contexts **will not be condoned under any circumstances**, and will be treated as a very serious disciplinary offence. It will usually result in the offending pupil's permanent exclusion from the Academy.
- 3.2 Disciplinary sanctions are clearly set out in the Academies' Behaviour Management Policies and Exclusions Policies. The police may also need to be involved depending on the circumstances.
- 3.3 Where exclusion is not permanent, there may be a requirement to comply with subsequent random drugs testing.

4. Pastoral Care

- 4.1 The GDST Academy Trust recognises the role that schools have to play in helping to prevent the misuse of drugs or similar substances.
- 4.2 The Academies have pastoral care and support schemes and seek to assist parents in preventing abuse, through educating pupils about the physical, emotional and social dangers involved. This is usually delivered through the Academy's PHSCE programme. The consequences of committing a criminal offence will be made very clear to pupils.

5. Review

- 5.1 This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the schedule drawn up and agreed by the Principals of the Academies and agreed by the ATB.

Last Revised and Modified: March 2015