

JOHN TAYLOR MULTI ACADEMY TRUST



Drugs Policy 2018

Implementation date: September 2018
LGB procedures: Yes

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Teams and the MAT Board because of the changing drugs scene, both nationally and locally.

The JTMAT policy is constructed in the light of the information shown in Appendix A.

Each JTMAT school will have a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will be the lead for drugs.

1.0 Rationale:

- 1.1 JTMAT schools want their pupils 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 pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.
- 1.2 As part of the statutory duty of each JTMAT school to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:
- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
 - Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
 - Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police, and others, to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.
- 1.3 JTMAT Schools have a safeguarding duty, in respect of all of its pupils, regarding safe and appropriate use of drugs as per the Keeping Children Safe in Education statutory guidance. School's will share relevant data to the Local Authority and other relevant professionals as required. Please read this policy alongside the Trust's Behaviour, Health and Safety, Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, and Safeguarding policies and local procedures specific to each school.
- 1.4 This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines and been informed by relevant research data.

2.0 Aims:

- 2.1 To acknowledge and clarify the Trust and its schools' role in drug prevention and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs. This policy will provide information about procedures in response to any drug-related incident and provide guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors.
- 2.2 To have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents, consistent with our Trust's behaviour policy.
- 2.3 To ensure that each JTMAT school takes a whole school approach on the issue of drugs; as part of its commitment to being a healthy school.

3.0 Drugs on JTMAT School Premises:

- 3.1 The legal definition of premises of a school 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 school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

3.2 **Definition of a drug:**

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

Medicines Each JTMAT school has procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to the 'Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy' for more specific information.

Alcohol No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Pupils 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 school. Parents will be asked to collect their children and consequences will be issued in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Smoking All JTMAT schools are non-smoking sites, at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches, lighters, or electronic devices. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents requested to collect the items. Should the items not be collected by a specified date then the JTMAT school will dispose of them appropriately. Consequences will be issued in line with the school's behaviour policy.

Illegal drugs No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on a JTMAT school premises.

Solvents JTMAT schools will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of sniffable products.

New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs or 'legal highs') JTMAT schools do not allow NPSs on site. These are now either under the control of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 or subject to the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PS Act) and as such, have no place in a school setting.

4.0 The Management of Drug Related Incidents

4.1 JTMAT Schools are committed to tackling drug misuse among pupils. Instances of possession, use, or supply of drugs, on school premises will be regarded with utmost seriousness and, depending upon particular circumstances, **will lead to permanent exclusion from the school.**

In managing any incidents the following tenets must apply:

- The welfare of all the pupils in the school is paramount
- Parent/Guardian involvement is necessary
- The requirements of the Law and Trust policy will be upheld

4.2 Responses to drug related incidents:

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises;
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises;
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises;
- Supply of drugs on school premises;
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use;
- Rumours of parents, staff or pupils using drugs; or,
- Reports of parents, staff or pupils using drugs.

- 4.3 Where there is a possibility that a pupil may have drugs in their possession, staff at a JTMAT school, under the general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enabling a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the member of staff finds other substances, which are not believed to be controlled drugs, these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs'. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it will be treated as a controlled drug, although the police may be called to support in that situation.

- 4.4 JTMAT school staff are not required to inform parents before a search takes place or to seek parental consent to search a pupil. Whilst there is no legal requirement to make or keep a record of a search, JTMAT staff will do so on a secure system.
- 4.5 JTMAT school staff will normally inform the individual pupil's parents or guardians where alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, though there is no legal requirement to do so.
- 4.6 Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure.
- 4.7 Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular, if a pupil 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 to ensure the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

5.0 Legal Drugs

- 5.1 Staff at JTMAT schools will not normally involve the police for incidents involving legal drugs. However, staff may decide to inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.
- 5.2 NPSs, although labelled as legal, are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. JTMAT schools will treat the possession of NPSs as unauthorised substances. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

6.0 Controlled Drugs

- 6.1 In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs JTMAT school staff will:
- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
 - seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
 - store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
 - notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
 - record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
 - inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;

- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

6.2 If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on a JTMAT school premises, the staff will prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If necessary it will be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and social services may need to be contacted.

7.0 Early Intervention

7.1 Early intervention regarding drug miss-use can be provided through thorough drugs education that is age and developmentally appropriate. Each JTMAT school has a drugs education programme, as outlined in Appendix c.

8.0 Pupils whose parents/carers or family members misuse drugs

8.1 JTMAT school staff will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the child is experiencing difficult home circumstances. Staff will all be pro-active in the early identification of children's and young people's needs and in safeguarding the children in their care. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a child chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home then advice will be sought as per the safeguarding policy.

School-specific Contextual Notes or Procedures will be available from each individual school within John Taylor MAT