



Drugs Policy

INSIGHT MAT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

CHANGE CONTROL

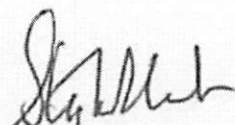
<i>Date</i>	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Details of change</i>
07/04/2017	0.a	Initial Draft
30/06/2017	0.b	Updated following review by Trustees
19/07/2017	1.0	Updated following approval at Board Meeting 18/07/2017
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March 2022	2.0	Approved at Board Meeting on 30.03.2022
Summer 2024	2.a	Updated following review
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February 2026	4.0	Approved at Board Meeting on 15.04.2026

Next Review	Spring 2028
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AUTHORISATION

Approved at Board Meeting on the 15th April 2026

Signed:



15.04.2026

Chair of Board

Date

Drugs Policy & Procedure

Introduction

The Insight Multi-Academy Trust (IMAT) actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the IMAT takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

This is a Multi-Academy Trust where human rights are respected as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the IMAT. The IMAT acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and will always take their circumstances into account.

Aim

- To ensure that the IMAT takes a whole approach on the issue of drugs as part of its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all its students.
- To ensure that all sites within the IMAT are a substance, alcohol, tobacco and vape free site.
- To ensure that the IMAT's role in drug prevention and drug education is appropriate to all students' needs.
- To ensure that teachers are confident and skilled to teach drug education through training and support.
- To have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents, with sanctions consistent with the IMAT's Achievement and Positive Behaviour Policy.
- To support students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about drugs, tobacco, alcohol and vapes.
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate adult support.

Key Elements

Students receive drugs, tobacco, alcohol and vape education in the taught Science curriculum Personal, Social and Health Education; Relationship, Sex and Health Education, the informal curriculum and through extra-curricular activities. The IMAT actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Community Police, Social Services, Local A, Young Offenders Institution and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to tobacco, alcohol, drug and vape education and to deal with incidents of misuse.

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and legal highs. By drugs paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

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Drugs on Academy premises

The legal definition of school premises 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.

Medicines

The IMAT has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by DFE and Staffordshire Health & Safety guidelines.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Students, parents, carers 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 remove their children, who are believed to be under the influence, from the school

Smoking and vaping

School premises are a no smoking and no vaping site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters, or vapes. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents/carers informed. Smoking or vaping on or within 200m of the school premises may result in a suspension or time spent in the school's Withdrawal Room.. The school will not return any confiscated vapes into the possession of children. Vaping is occasionally, but increasingly, being used as a method to consume illegal drugs. The school reserves the right to test confiscated vapes using commercially available testing kits or send the confiscated vape to the Police to ascertain if they contain any illegal drugs.

Illegal drugs and legal highs

No illegal drugs (including in vapes), legal highs or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises

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- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- A suspicion that a student is under the influence of drugs or other substances
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Suspension from school is not always an automatic response to a drug incident, however suspensions will be used depending upon severity or repeat offences, and permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Achievement and Positive Behaviour Policy and
- Allowing a student to remain in The IMAT would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the relevant school.
- A member of the Leadership Group will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

The school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs, or where there is a suspicion that a student is under the influence of drugs, at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

Individuals in possession of drugs

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If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents/carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the LA, Young Offenders Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

The IMAT will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Safeguarding and Confidentiality policies for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student. In particular if a student 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 try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Safeguarding Policy, and at the annual safeguarding training updates.

Support for students

At the IMAT the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the relevant school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Student Support, Year Head, Form Tutor, other designated pastoral staff)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Involvement of the police

Right to Search

In line with Searching, Screening and Confiscation, July 2022 the Headteacher and staff they authorise reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Parents/carers will always be informed when this has happened.

Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

If inappropriate articles are brought into school or used inappropriately, they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal, they will be handed to the police for safe disposal.

The IMAT works closely with its Police Community Support Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police will be involved in the confiscation of items, group work and education as well as links with home. Parents/carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

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Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of action should be taken.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Staff Sub-committee of the MAT Board will formally review this policy biennially or more frequently if circumstances or legislation suggest it is appropriate.

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Further Advice and Guidance:

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 3815 8920. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

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24 Hour Helpline: 0300 1236600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents/carers and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

www.angelusfoundation.com

www.whynotfindout.org