



Approval and review: Drugs, Alcohol, Vaping and Smoking Awareness Policy

This policy is the responsibility of Julian Alsop

This policy was approved by Julian Alsop on 11th May 2024

This policy is due for review by June 2025

MIAG



Purpose

MIAG aim to raise students' understanding and knowledge of the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs. We aim to ensure that students are aware of the difference between safe, legal and illegal drugs including the use and misuse, and how to avoid dangers. We will also provide our young people with relevant information regarding what help is available to them if they do become involved or encounter substance misuse in their lives.

Aims

- Enable students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge and challenging misinformed and dangerous attitudes
- Increase understanding of the consequences of substance use and misuse
- Identify the risks that users face including HIV infection, social promiscuity, cancer and other serious health issues
- Identify support options available for users and their families
- Promote the benefits of a healthy lifestyle

Ensuring student awareness of smoking, drugs and alcohol is done primarily through Project Based Learning, PSHE topics and mentoring. MIAG share concerns regarding the use and misuse of substances of all varieties by the young people in our care. Concerns will be raised with other professionals as appropriate.

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Provision highlights

Attitudes and Values

- To examine own opinions and values, and those of others
- To promote a positive attitude to healthy lifestyles and keeping self-safe
- To enhance self-awareness and self esteem
- To value and respect self and others
- To value diversity and difference within society
- To promote a sense of responsibility and awareness towards the use of drugs, alcohol and the dangers these impose

Personal and Social Skills

- To identify risks to health
- To communicate with peers and adults, including parents/carers and professionals
- To learn how to give and secure help
- To develop decision-making, negotiation and assertiveness, particularly in situations related to drug and alcohol use
- To develop an appreciation of the consequences of choices made
- To be able to cope with peer influences, and in resisting unhelpful pressures from adults and the media
- To make choices based on an understanding of difference and with an absence of prejudice
- To be able to talk, listen and think about feelings and relationships
- To develop critical thinking as part of decision-making

Knowledge and Understanding

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- To develop an understanding of drugs and alcohol and of the effects and risks of using substances
- To gain an understanding of how the body functions
- To gain an understanding of what is safe and appropriate drug use
- To gain an understanding of the role of drugs and alcohol in society and the laws and rules relating to their use
- To gain knowledge of people who can help if pupils have any worries or concerns relating to themselves or others and an understanding of confidentiality
- To gain an understanding of the changing nature of relationships, including families and friends, and ways of dealing positively with change

Drug related situations A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs. Education 1st do not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs or alcohol in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The following will guide staff response to an incident of drug or alcohol misuse:

- Immediately inform the DSL– who will guide investigation, ensure written record is made and decide about any disposal or further searching. Every concern will be investigated and recorded in the incident logbook.
- Consider responses. We reserve the right to contact parents and/or inform the police if this is in the best interests of the child and if doing so will ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- A senior member of staff will decide on appropriate sanctions in line with our Attitude to Learning Policy, this may involve exclusion. Sanctions may be accompanied by referral to other services for advice and support
- Should the student be found in possession of a classified illegal substance, a senior staff member will seek to take immediate possession of the item. As stated in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 the substance will be immediately disposed of or handed over to the police

if it is believed to be an illegal item. If necessary, a student will be asked to turn out their own pockets or bags, with another member of staff present. A personal search can only be carried out by police officer or parent / carer.

- Any student thought to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will not be allowed to attend provision and may be excluded. The incident will be fully investigated and recorded by a senior member of staff, including a review of the individual student risk assessment.

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- Any student thought to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst in our care will be sent home and may be excluded. The incident will be fully investigated and recorded by a senior member of staff, including a review of the individual student risk assessment.

NO SMOKING AND NO VAPING POLICY

1. Introduction There can be little doubt that attitudes towards smoking and/or vaping in public areas and at workplaces have changed dramatically over the past two decades or so, following an increased concern about matters of health and safety generally and associated educational issues. More recently, there have been specific concerns over the effects of "passive smoking" and a growing tendency among children and young people to smoke and/or vape.

Smoking is known to be the principal avoidable cause of premature deaths in the UK. That is why the Government White Paper "Choosing Health: Making healthier choices easier", promises new action to tackle tobacco and reduce the 106,000 deaths in the UK caused by smoking every year (86,500 in England). Although vaping is relatively new and the longer-term health implications unknown, it is believed that these could be as severe as smoking.

From the 1st of July 2007 all workplaces in England we are required to be smoke free (Health Act 2006 and the Smoke -free (premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006). From this date it is classed as a criminal offence to smoke in a smoke - free place.

MIAG operates a No Smoking and No Vaping Policy in all its workplaces.

2. Aims

2.1 MIAG regards itself as a health-promoting organisation. It recognises that its staff act as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. Considering the evidence that second hand smoke causes damage to health this No Smoking and No Vaping Policy has been implemented to

: to protect the staff, children and young people, visitors, and contractors from the effects of tobacco smoke and/or vaping.

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: to acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke and/or vape.

: to to be a health promoting organisation. o raise awareness of the dangers of smoking and vaping through the Personal Social and Health Education Programme; and help smokers and/or vape uses to quit.

3. Purpose

3.1 The purpose of this No Smoking and No Vaping Policy is to provide a healthy and safe working environment for all employees, learners, parents/care givers, contractors, and other visitors.

3.2 The intention is not to confront smokers and/or vape uses, but to encourage and help those that wish to give up. The issue is not whether someone smokes/vapes, but where and when he or she smokes/vapes, and the legal implications of underage learners accessing vapes/smoking.

4. Policy Statement

4.1 All employers have a duty to ensure as far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of their employees. This duty is reflected in legislation, which places on the employer the requirement to assess risks to employees' health in the workplace and take appropriate remedial action.

4.2 Smoking and/or vaping is known to be a serious risk to health. It is a significant cause of disease and premature death. In addition, there is now evidence that "passive smoking", the inhaling of other people's smoke, can cause lung cancer in non-smokers, as well as causing a deterioration of respiratory conditions.

4.3 MIAG operates a No Smoking and No Vaping Policy on ALL sites.

5. Whole ALP Ban

5.1 It would be the responsibility of the Head of ALP or his/her representative(s) to always enforce the policy and to advise employees and ensure that visitors to the site comply with these arrangements.

5.2 Any contractor employed on site would be made aware of the ban before work is undertaken. It would be written into service specifications for contractors.

5.3 Smoking and/or vaping would not be permitted by any group hiring MIAG premises for functions or regular lettings and this would be written into the hire agreement.

5.4 MIAG need to post notices reminding people that this is a smoke/vape free site.

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6. Support for employees

6.1 MIAG recognises that staff who smoke and/or vape may need support either to give up smoking/vaping or help control their smoking/vaping.

6.2 MIAG will make available to employees the NHS smoking helpline number to get free advice and for information on your nearest Stop Smoking Service on 0800 013 0845.

7. Employee co-operation

7.2 Staff are not allowed to smoke and/or vape on any school premises (this includes during trips)

7.3 All new and prospective employees to be advised of the restrictions and rules regarding smoking and/or vaping at work through advertising material, the interview process and induction.

7.4 It is anticipated that all employees will comply with the No Smoking and No Vaping Policy. In circumstances where there is wilful contravention of the No Smoking and No Vaping Policy, steps will be taken to invoke disciplinary procedures.

8. Outside agencies using the school premises

8.1 MIAG No Smoking and No Vaping Policy applies to all education/events held at any MIAG centre.

9. Pupils

9.1 Smoking and/or vaping among learners during MIAG hours is not permitted.

9.2 Smoking and/or vaping among learners on MIAG off site visits or trips is not permitted.

9.3 Pupils caught smoking and/or vaping, or pupils in the presence of others who are smoking/vaping will be sanctioned in line with the 'home school' behaviour procedures. Parents/carers informed via DSL; home school's informed by end of the day for next steps for student/s, this will be in line with the home school's current No Smoking/Vaping policy.

9.4 Persistent offenders may have their placement at MIAG retracted.

9.5 Help will always be provided to those pupils who want advice, through PSHE and signposting to support agencies.



10. Parents/care givers

10.1 Parent/caregivers will have access to view this policy on the MIAG website.

10.2 Parent/caregivers will receive correspondence from MIAG clearly stating expectations.

11. Signage

11.1 Clearly worded signs will be sited at the gates, entrance(s) and in prominent positions on all school sites.