

MIAG



Drug & Alcohol Awareness Policy

Ratified by Chair of Govs:

Signed by

Date 10/6/25

Policy Statement:

MIAG (Meeting Individual Aspirations & Goals) is committed to promoting a safe, healthy, and supportive environment for all learners, staff, and visitors. This policy aims to prevent drug and alcohol misuse through education, support, and clear procedures, recognising the vulnerability of our learners and the need for sensitive, non-judgemental responses.

Aims of the Policy:

- ✚ To safeguard learners from the risks associated with drug and alcohol use
 - ✚ To provide age-appropriate education and prevention strategies
 - ✚ To support learners who may be affected by substance misuse
 - ✚ To set clear expectations and procedures for managing incidents
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Definition:

The term “drugs” refers to:

- ✚ All illegal substances (e.g., cannabis, cocaine)
 - ✚ Legal drugs used inappropriately (e.g., solvents, prescription medication)
 - ✚ Alcohol, tobacco, vaping products, and energy drinks (if misused)
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Legal Framework:

This policy is informed by:

- **DfE Guidance:** *Searching, Screening and Confiscation* (2022)
 - **Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE)**
 - **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**
 - Local safeguarding procedures
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Roles and Responsibilities:

Role:	Responsibility:
ALP Centre Manager	Ensures implementation and full compliance
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Co-ordinates response to any safeguarding concerns
All Staff	Deliver education, report concerns, follow policy
Learners	Follow rules and seek support if needed
Parents/Carers	Support healthy choices and work with MIAG if issues arise

Education and Prevention:

- ✚ **Drug and alcohol education** is embedded in PSHE and wellbeing sessions
- ✚ **External agencies** (e.g., substance misuse workers, school nurses) may support delivery
- ✚ Focus on **building resilience, informed choices**, and **harm reduction**
- ✚ Educational content is **differentiated** to meet learners' SEMH and SEND needs

Support and Early Intervention:

- ✚ Staff are trained to **identify early signs** of misuse or vulnerability
- ✚ Learners affected by drugs or alcohol will receive **support, not punishment**
- ✚ **Referrals** may be made to external agencies (e.g., CAMHS, drug services)
- ✚ MIAG promotes a **trauma-informed** and restorative approach

Prohibited Substances on Site:

MIAG has a **zero-tolerance policy** for:

- ✚ Illegal drugs
- ✚ Alcohol
- ✚ Solvents and other intoxicating substances
- ✚ Vaping, tobacco, and energy drinks (unless permitted for cessation support)

Learners found in possession will be dealt with in line with safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Procedures for Managing Incidents:

If drugs or alcohol are suspected:

- ✚ **Ensure safety first**
- ✚ **Report immediately** to the DSL, Deputy DSL or senior staff
- ✚ Secure and **store any substances safely** (if applicable)
- ✚ Incident recorded and investigated
- ✚ **Parents/carers informed**, unless it places the learner at risk
- ✚ **Referral to external services** where appropriate

Searches may be conducted following DfE guidance with at least two members of staff present.

Confidentiality:

- ✚ Learner disclosures will be treated with **care and sensitivity**
 - ✚ **Safeguarding overrides confidentiality** if the learner is at risk
 - ✚ MIAG will share concerns with appropriate agencies as necessary
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Staff Guidance:

- ✚ Staff must not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol while at work
 - ✚ Any concerns about a colleague must be reported in confidence to the ALP Centre Manager, DSL or Chief Operating Officer
 - ✚ Staff are encouraged to seek support if struggling with substance misuse
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Monitoring and Review

- ✚ Incidents are monitored for trends and used to improve provision
- ✚ Policy reviewed **annually** or following serious incidents