



GLOBAL ACADEMY
MAKEUP • HAIR • PRODUCTIONS

SMOKING, VAPING & SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

1. Policy Overview

- **Zero Tolerance for Illegal Drugs**

Global Make Up, Hair & Productions Academy (“Global”) operates a strict zero-tolerance policy for possession, use, or supply of illegal substances. This includes **THC (cannabis)** and **synthetic cannabinoids (spice)**, both substances are classified as a **Class B controlled drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**.

- **Vaping Prohibition**

Vaping is prohibited on Global premises, during school hours, and while travelling to and from Global activities. This aligns with the **Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015**, which prohibit sales to under-18s.

- **Alcohol and Tobacco**

Alcohol consumption is banned during all Global activities. Tobacco use is prohibited in line with the **Children and Families Act 2014**, which bans smoking in vehicles carrying under-18s, and the **Health Act 2006**, which prohibits smoking in enclosed public spaces.

- **THC vs. Nicotine**

Incidents involving THC, synthetic cannabinoids or other controlled substances are treated with greater seriousness than those involving nicotine. THC and synthetic cannabinoid related incidents follow the **DfE and ACPO guidance on drug-related incidents in schools**.

2. Procedures and Consequences

- **Immediate Action**

If a student appears unwell due to suspected substance use, staff must prioritise **first aid and emergency medical support** before investigation.

- **Investigation and Search**

Senior staff may conduct searches of students’ persons or property if they have **reasonable suspicion** of possession of banned items, under powers granted by the **Education Act 2011**.

- **Confiscation**

Any vape device, alcohol, or suspected illegal substance will be confiscated, securely stored, and logged as evidence.

- **Police Involvement**

Police will be contacted in all cases involving illegal substances, suspected supply, or refusal to comply with a search.

- **Parental/Carer Contact**

Parents/carers will be informed:

- Immediately in a medical emergency.
- After any search (regardless of outcome).
- Following police involvement and conclusion of investigation.

3. Disciplinary Sanctions

- **First Offence**

Likely to result in a **fixed-term suspension**.

- **Serious Offences**

Possession or supply (including sharing) of illegal substances may result in **permanent exclusion**, in line with the **DfE Exclusion Guidance (2022)**.

- **Nicotine/Tobacco**

Possession of nicotine products will result in confiscation and parental notification, with sanctions proportionate to age and SEND needs.

4. Support and Safeguarding

- **Pastoral Support**

Students who voluntarily seek help for substance misuse will be offered confidential support without disciplinary action, provided they are not under investigation and have not harmed others.

- **Safeguarding Concerns**

Substance misuse may indicate wider safeguarding issues. Global will follow the **Keeping Children Safe in Education (2024)** statutory guidance, making referrals to local services where appropriate.

- **SEND Considerations**

All disciplinary and support measures will be adapted to meet the needs of students with SEND, ensuring accessibility, fairness, and compliance with the **Equality Act 2010**.

5. Recording and Monitoring

- All incidents are formally recorded in Global's safeguarding and behaviour logs.
- Records may be taken into account when considering references or progression opportunities.
- Regular monitoring ensures consistency and compliance with statutory requirements.

6. Education and Prevention

- Global is committed to educating, safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all learners. To support this, Global will provide age-appropriate education on the risks of smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drugs through pastoral sessions, tutor-led discussions, and external specialists, with provision tailored for SEND learners.
- Preventative education will emphasise **healthy choices, resilience, and awareness of support services**.

7. Designated Safeguarding Leads

- Global assigns responsibility for overseeing this policy to its two Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) and two Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs).
- The DSLs and DDSLs act as the primary points of contact for recording, monitoring, and responding to incidents related to smoking, vaping, alcohol, and drugs.
- They ensure that records are maintained accurately, interventions are appropriate, and support is provided to SEND learners where needed.

- The DSLs and DDSs will liaise with external agencies, health professionals, and parents/carers as required to safeguard learners effectively.

Reviewed by	Compliance & Quality Assurance Administrator
Reviewed	Annually, before start of a new academic year
Last Review	21/11/2025
Review Date	30/08/2026

Reviewed: Signed: *B Levy*..... Date: 21/11/2025

Benjamin Levy

Compliance & Quality Assurance Administrator