



Drugs Policy

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Learning | Effort | Aspiration | Respect | Nurture | Wellbeing

Drugs Policy

Principles

This policy has been written with reference to national guidelines, Local Authority guidance, ACPO drugs advice for schools, relevant research data, and DfE guidance.

Wood Green School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our policies relating to student and staff welfare, including this drugs and alcohol policy.

The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account.

Definition

A drug is a substance other than food that, by its chemical nature, can change how the body works and how you think, feel or behave.

For the purposes of this policy, this definition includes the following:

- legal and illegal drugs
- tobacco
- alcohol
- medicines
- solvents

The supply of drugs is defined as distributing drugs to another person for use and does not require payment or reward.

Aims

It is our aim to help all our students to take their place safely in a world where a wide variety of drugs and other potentially harmful substances exist. We recognise that some drugs can have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has the potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects. In particular, they need to understand that the use, possession or supply of some drugs is an arrestable offence.

We will:

- Educate staff and young people through a planned drugs education programme – Personal Development - as well as input from Science lessons and the school health nurse
- Maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff of the school
- Provide effective support on drugs-related issues
- Exercise clarity and consistency in our approach to drugs-related issues.

Co-ordinating the Policy

Issues concerning substance abuse are referred to the Assistant Head, Student Welfare, who will follow up as appropriate. Parents will be involved in the process and kept informed of the school's concerns over the health and safety of their child.

Contributions to the Drugs Education Programme

These include:

- The Personal Development Programme at KS3 and KS4
- The Enrichment Programme at KS5
- Aspects of the science department's work at KS3 and KS4
- The police will work in an advisory capacity, investigating circumstances and providing specialist support
- School Health Nurse
- Wellbeing sessions in Years 7 and 8
- Smoking cessation advice service (and school health nurse referrals)

First Aid/Medical Procedures

There is a separate policy regarding the provision of First Aid and Administration of Medicines in school.

Students with Medical Needs

There is a separate policy covering supporting students with medical conditions.

Substances on School Premises

Wood Green School is a non-smoking school for staff and students; this includes the whole site and just outside the boundary of the school site. There is no smoking on school premises at any time. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. 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 informed. Smoking on or just outside the school premises will result in a significant consequence, which might include a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

Alcohol is only permitted to be drunk by staff and other adults on social occasions outside school hours, and then only with the permission of the headteacher.

Except for the medical purposes set out in the policies referenced above, no drug of any kind should be brought on to school premises.

Drugs off School Premises

When students participate in any kind of school trip off site – whether in this country or abroad – they should consider themselves to be under the complete authority of the supervising members of staff. All venues will be deemed to be extensions of the school. Consequently, any incidence of substance abuse will be treated as seriously as if it had occurred on the school site itself.

Response to Drugs-Related Incidents

- If any student is thought to be under the influence of a drug, medical help will be sought at once and First Aid given if required. In addition, routine enquiries will be made about the drug involved, its source and names of any other students concerned. The priority will be students' safety.
- Rumours or suspicions will also be promptly investigated. Parents will be informed of staff concerns.

- In all cases where there is a suspicion that a student on the school premises is in possession of drugs, the school will carry out a search with two adults present. The police may be called to assist with this.
- If any student or adult on the school premises, or participating in a school-related activity off-site, is found in possession of an unauthorised drug, regardless of what it is, it will be confiscated and held in a safe place pending action. The relevant member of the leadership team in school, or the most senior member of staff in an off-site situation, will take the initiative in deciding how to respond further.
- Each situation will be judged individually and parents will be kept informed. If the drug is suspected of being illegal, the school will contact the police for their help. The police may decide to take further action.
- A careful investigation will be undertaken by the school to determine the involvement of any other students and records will be kept.
- The sanctions used in response to drugs-related incidents will depend on the nature and gravity of the offence. Students found in possession of an illegal substance or having used an illegal substance will normally be excluded from school and may be permanently excluded; students involved in supplying or selling drugs will normally be permanently excluded.
- In the case where an adult is under suspicion of possessing illegal drugs, the police will be informed.

Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with *Behaviour & Discipline in Schools* (January 2016) 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 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.

Confidentiality

Wood Green School 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 Child Protection and Confidentiality policies for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. 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 Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the 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'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, School Nurse, Head of Year, Tutor, Pastoral Support Worker)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Aquarius
- Working with the Police

Useful Organisations

Our main support organisation is Aquarius, Oxfordshire Young People's Service. Aquarius provides free, confidential and non-judgemental information, advice and prevention campaigns to raise awareness of substance misuse.

It supports children and young people from ages 5-19 (up to 25 in special circumstances) who use substances, are affected by another person's use of substances, or are at high risk of using substances. These support programmes are open-ended and offered for as long as the young person requires our support.

It also offers brief advice and interventions for young people using or at risk of misusing substances through assertive outreach on a one to one basis or through group work.

As an outreach service it meets young people at a safe and appropriate location and time.

- ypoxfordshire@aquarius.org.uk
- [07950 301 426 \(Single Point of Contact\)](tel:07950301426)

Other organisations are:

- **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 Change uk** 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 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.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.
Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk
Website: <http://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.
Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.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
- **Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.
Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)
- **Drugwise** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk
- **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.
24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com; Website: www.talktofrank.com
- **Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.
Tel: 020 963 2751. Email admin@mentoruk.org
Website: <https://mentoruk.org.uk/>
- **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: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.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 and young people. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
- **Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;
Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>
- **Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.
Website: www.childrenssociety.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>
- Admission of YP who have been excluded from another school due to breach of Drugs Policy – risk assessment
- Staff (including on trips to follow)