

THE WEALD SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

(January 2012)

Introduction:

This policy has been fully discussed by the Senior Management Team, Governors, parents, Pastoral Leaders, (including PSHCE co-ordinator), the School's Community Police Officer, and representatives on the School Council. It will be reviewed regularly. The policy gives clear guidance to staff, governors, parents and pupils on the school's view of drugs, its strategy for drugs prevention, how drugs related incidents are managed and the rules relating to drugs in schools.

It is the role of the school to provide a safe, caring and protective environment for all its students. Thus the school policy is aimed at reducing the risk of exposure to harmful substances and enabling pupils to take responsibility for their own health and welfare. The pastoral role of the school, including assemblies and the delivery of an effective PSHCE programme, provides a proactive approach to drugs education whilst also stating clearly the actions which will be taken in the event of students' involvement in drugs

Context:

Social and Cultural:

All drugs have the potential to harm; but some drugs are more harmful than others. For a small number of people, drugs lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

All young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

However schools cannot act alone. They are part of a broader prevention picture which includes parents/carers and a range of partner agencies. By working together, we can help young people navigate their way through what is a complex social issue. The school works positively with other services to enhance the information available to young people on these issues and understand the impact on communities. It also seeks to work together with agencies to provide the necessary support and services as required.

The majority of young people of school-age have never used an illegal drug. Most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a young

person's decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs. However, very few of those who experiment with illegal drugs will go on to become problem drug users. All young people, including those in primary schools, are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Substance misuse in West Sussex is no more prevalent than in other counties of similar size and population (*West Sussex Substance Misuse Strategy document evidence 2010*)

Local and National Guidance:

This policy has been written partly taking into account guidance from the DfES Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 0092/2204 and West Sussex County Council's Children and Young People: Substance Use Strategy 2010-2015

Note: In West Sussex the following describes the range of services available:

Universal Services: those services available to all young people and their families.

Enhanced Services: Early intervention services targeted to meet the needs of young people who are likely to be at greater risk of experiencing harm due to their own substance misuse or substance misuse within their family.

Specialist Services: services provided to meet the needs of young people with a substance misuse problem that has been identified, and care-planned treatment follows a comprehensive assessment of their needs.

1. Purpose of the Policy:

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of pupils and others who use the school
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

2. Key Responsibilities:

If any member of staff has concerns about any drug related incident then they should immediately inform a member of the senior leadership team.

The person in the school who would oversee any major drugs issues in the school would be the Headteacher (delegated to Deputy Headteacher in his absence).

The person responsible for the development and delivery of the drug education programme in the school is the PD co-ordinator.

3. Statement on the Use of Drugs, Where and to whom the Policy

Applies:

Pupils must not bring controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, tobacco products (papers, matches, lighters), alcohol or volatile substances onto the school site at any time. This policy is clear that the possession, consumption, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs is unacceptable within the school boundaries.

The school boundaries extend beyond the school premises and perimeters to include includes journeys to and from school in school uniform, work experience, residential trips and college link courses and any other occasions when they are representing the school.

Any breaking of these rules may result in a range of punishments, including permanent exclusion. Alcohol may only be brought onto the school site by an adult with the Headteacher's permission.

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working in the school

5. The School's Definition on Drugs:

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is :

“a substance people take to change the way they think and feel”

The term drugs and drug education unless otherwise stated is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all illegal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, Khat, MMCAAT (Mephedrone) and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers)
- all over the counter and prescription medicines

6. The Health Needs of the School Body:

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the needs of the students. The school statement on illegal or other unauthorised drugs as defined above is clear. The first concern in dealing with a medical emergency involving drugs is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the needs of the pupils. Appropriate help/first aid should be summoned before further issues are addressed.

Confidentiality: The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The HoH, appropriate Deputy Headteacher and Headteacher will be informed and further help sought if appropriate.

Medicines: Some drugs may be authorised in school, namely medicines. If a student is on medicine either prescribed by a doctor or over the counter medicine as with parental instruction, clear guidance for this is set out in the Schools First Aid and Medical Policy. This must be consulted and the guidance adhered to, if in doubt clarity must be sought from the school before a student is given any medicines to bring onto school site, in all cases this must be declared and made known to the key staff.

Volatile Substances: Some solvents or hazardous chemicals are legitimately used by school staff or pupils> these substances are stored securely (in line with COSHH regulations) and managed to prevent inappropriate use or access. Arrangements are set out in the school's health and safety policy.

Alcohol: Use and consumption of alcohol by staff and adult visitors on the school premises can only be authorised by the Headteacher.

The school recognises that there may be occasions when a member of staff may experience difficulties in relation to alcohol misuse outside of school. Staff are encouraged to discuss this with line managers so that support can be put in place. The school offers confidential counselling through West Sussex County Council that can be booked. In addition, an Occupation Health Referral can be actioned if appropriate.

Tobacco: In keeping with West Sussex County Council policy, the school is a non-smoking site.

7. **Drugs Education and Drugs Prevention**

The school provides a comprehensive and planned drugs education curriculum for all pupils, as part of the Personal Social Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) programme and in other areas of the curriculum, as summarised below. Further details of the principles and methodology of the PD curriculum can be found in full PD programme details/policy. All new staff to the school benefit from a drugs education training programme in order to enhance their PSHE delivery skills. Support for teaching and understanding drugs related issues is also incorporated in our staff INSET programme using a range of outside agencies. Senior Team member with oversight of the PSHCE Coordinator has responsibility for ensuring that there is effective drugs education embodied within the PSHCE curriculum. Appendix A shows the outline of drugs education across the curriculum.

This aims to provide all pupils with knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs, including tobacco and alcohol. The school acknowledges that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the school community, and in so doing, helps to foster positive self-images which may help pupils to cope better in situations involving drug abuse.

8. The School's Response to a Drugs-Related Incident:

Parental involvement:

Parents will be informed of the drugs education curriculum and have the opportunity to raise concerns. Parents will be contacted if their child is involved in breaking the rules on drugs and advised on how the school, intends to proceed. Where it is felt that to do this might put the child's safety at risk or if there is any other cause for concern for the child's safety at home then the school will exercise caution when considering contacting parents/carers. In any situation where it is felt the child may be at significant risk of harm and require protection the schools child protection office and child protection procedures will be followed. Opportunities will be made available for parents to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues. Parents are encouraged to approach the school if they are concerned about any issue relating to drugs and their child and the school can refer to specialist support.

Police Involvement:

In most cases, any punishment is likely to be a school rather than police matter. However, the school is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which makes it an offence to possess or supply drugs. This Act also allows individuals to take possession of an illegal drug to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing that they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately. The school maintains strong links with the local community police through their involvement in the drugs education curriculum, which helps pupils to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the law. It is the policy of this school to contact the local police where it is believed that an incident has involved illegal substances.

Disciplinary response:

Situations where school rules on drugs are broken will result in punishment. The type of punishment cannot be categorically stated as it will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. Sanctions will include fixed term exclusions, community service and, permanent exclusion will be considered. The sanction for drug dealing within the school as described above will most probably be permanent exclusion.

Counselling response:

The pupils' welfare is paramount and in all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling or support will be actively considered. The school has contacts with local drugs agencies and advisers who can offer some counselling and work with pupils as part of the drugs education programme. We believe that those pupils who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be given appropriate support and guidance.

9. Searches and disposal of drugs related items:

School Searches:

The school will ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused they will consider whether to call the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress.

It should be noted that under article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 the school reserves the right to search personal property without consent, the school is entitled to do personal searches of students when they are believed to have drugs on their person, this is in place to protect the human rights of the other students in the school, the school will not normally exercise this right.

Personal searches: When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police will be called.

Searches of school property: Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' lockers or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there.

Searches of personal property: The school reserves the right search personal property without consent. After any search involving pupils, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are taken to deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected illegal drugs staff will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
- store it in school safe
- **without delay** notify the police, who will be asked to collect it and then store or dispose of it.

The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken, but in the case of an illegal or unauthorised drug the school will normally do so. Liaison will take place to ensure the safe disposal of any substances.

Where a pupil is identified the police will be required to follow set internal procedures. To record full details of the incident, including notes of any discussions with the pupils. These should include date, time place and people present. The police incident reference number should also be included.

Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances. Police may advise on analysis and formal identification. If formal action is to be taken against a pupil, the police will make arrangements for them to attend a local police station accompanied by an appropriate adult for interview. Only in exceptional circumstances should arrest or interviews take place at school. An appropriate adult should always be present during interviews, preferably a parent/carers or duty social worker.

LEGAL DRUGS:

The police will not always necessarily be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school will inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to pupils in the local area.

Alcohol and tobacco: Parents/carers will be informed and informed that the alcohol/tobacco has been disposed of. In cases where a disciplinary proceeding is necessary, items will be disposed of, once this has taken place.

Volatile substances: Given the level of danger posed by volatile substances, the school will arrange for their safe disposal.

Medicines: Parents/carers will be informed and will be asked to collect and dispose of unused or date-expired medicines. Further details are outlined in the medicines policy.

Disposal of drug equipment:

Needles or syringes found on school premises will be placed in a sturdy, secure container, using gloves. A tin is kept in the office for this purpose, out of reach of pupils. Used needles and syringes will be disposed of appropriately and not put in domestic waste.

10. The School's Response to Misuse of Drugs by Adults

If parents/carers are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere and call for a second adult, if necessary. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a pupil into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances, the school will discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home.

If staff members are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, senior staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere and call for a second adult, if necessary. Disciplinary actions for staff are covered under their employment contract and substance abuse referral and mitigation follows the West Sussex guidelines (West Sussex policy on the misuse of alcohol drugs and other substances 2008)

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Appendix A:

Key Stage 3

Subject	Content	Where / who
Science	Disease: cigarettes and alcohol basic effects on body	Year 8 Science lessons
PD	Under Pressure: Introduction to Peer pressure, Attitudes to smoking, Glue sniffing, Alcohol Drugs Event: A) To explore student's attitudes and values towards different substances (illegal and legal). To enable students to make the right choices, be informed and know where they can get help and support. B) To become familiar with how the criminal justice system operates and to understand how the law relates to young people.	Year 7 PD lessons Year 8 PD event
RE	Drug use in the context of stereotyping	Year 8: RE lessons (sometimes)
Drama	Y7: Within the topic of homelessness students examine prejudices and the effects of homeless on people, the lifestyles and issues they have to deal on a daily basis such as drug and alcohol misuse. Y8: Students study a performance called The Stones. It explores self-assertion, peer pressure, actions and consequences as well as the law through the performance. Students explore ways in which to resist peer pressure and develop strategies.	Year 7 Year 8

Key Stage 4

Subject	Content	Where / who
Science	Drugs, cigarettes, alcohol, performance enhancing drugs, cannabis, heroin and cocaine. Basic effects on the body (circulatory systems especially) and possible effects of cannabis as a gateway drug and its effect on mental health.	Year 9 Core biology B1.3
PD	Y9: Awareness of school policy, the pupils will be able to identify why workplaces and public places control smoking in their environments. Recap aspects of drug legislation i.e. cannabis Y10: Risky Business & Emotional Health & Well Being: The reasons for and the cost of social drinking. Raise awareness of teenage alcohol abuse. Cost of social drinking to society. To examine 'Risky Business' and the meaning of risk, whether this be personal safety, drug misuse, smoking or underage sex. AA Talks. Y11: Alcohol – Respect it! To explore safe drinking levels – examine units of alcohol and the consequences. What are the 5 'wells' of well-being? (emotional, physical, cognitive, creative, spiritual) How do I keep them topped up?	Year 9 PD lessons Year 10 PD lessons Year 11 PD Lessons
RE	Drug use in the context of perceptual distortion In the context of mystical / numinous experiences	Year 9 RE lessons (sometimes) Year 10 RE lessons (sometimes)
Drama	Y9/10: GCSE Exploration of issues through drama. Life investigation of a young person who is recluse. Y11: Binge drinking and other topical issues. They examine the actions of consequences through the play 'Blue Remember Hills.	GCSE option
Health and Social Care	Y9/10: Investigation of classification of different substances legal and illegal. Create a drug education guide. Discuss the issues and effects of substance misuse in the context of physical effects, intellectual effects, social, and emotional. They explore the risks and resulting consequences such as unwanted pregnancy and risks of sexually transmitted infections.	GCSE option
Physical Education	Y10/11 option PE: Explore drugs in sport, such as performance enhancements, legal and illegal, the effects of drug taking on sports performance including the body and brain, the resulting effects on cross gender issues through the over use of steroids. Y12/13: Students examine the effects of growth hormones, the use of EPO in the Tour De France and use of blood doping in sports and the consequences.	GCSE PE and BTEC PE Including GCE PE.