



Substance Abuse Policy

Rationale

Werneth School is dedicated to helping all students develop the ability to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognize that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. Our primary concern is the health and safety of the school community and meeting the well-being of our students. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

The possession of illegal and unauthorised drugs, the use or supply of any form of drugs at Werneth School is absolutely banned. This applies to the school building, the school grounds, or during any school visits, travel to and from school. Should drugs be found, they will be confiscated and disposed of by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the Police. The supply of drugs is defined as providing drugs for others whether or not money or other goods are exchanged.

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.

Aims:

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

Key roles and responsibilities

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for managing drug related issues within the school.

Inclusive definition of drugs

Werneth School defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. Where we refer to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicine, new psychoactive substances which are also known as 'legal highs', solvents and volatile substances which include aerosols, glue or lighter fuel.

It is totally forbidden for anyone to possess, use or supply drugs in this school.

Drug Education

Context

We will provide all pupils with drug education as an integral part of our Lifelong Learning curriculum and through Drop Down Days.

Ethos

Drug education in the school aims to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use

and developing and practicing decision making skills. The programme we follow will be based on national and local guidelines for good practice and will be appropriate to the age and experience of our students.

- **Content and delivery**

Teaching will be based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values.

- **Use of visitors and outside speakers**

We use visitors to support our planned teacher lead programme of education, in line with national and local guidance. A member of staff is always present when visitors are working with our students.

- **Mosaic: Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service**

This service provides advice, information, treatment, interventions and support about drugs and alcohol related problems for young people under 26, their families, including children of drug/alcohol using parents. A member of staff from the Mosaic School based service is in Werneth School one day each week.

Managing drug related incidents: routine arrangements

- **Medicines**

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for the safety of everyone. Our practice is in line with guidance as recommended by Stockport local authority. This is the Managing Medical Conditions Policy.

- **Alcohol**

Students are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date, for the safety of the whole school.

- **Tobacco**

The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. 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. E cigarettes are not permitted.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

- **Illegal drugs**

Illegal drugs are not permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

Drug Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug.
- Finding drugs or related paraphernalia on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises.
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours of drug possession, supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession, supply or drug use.

Signs of substance misuse

Key indicators of substance misuse are the **changes in behaviours of students.**

- Appetite loss.
- Lethargic and not able to sleep.
- Agitated or confused
- Tremors, slow or slurred speech.
- Lack of interest in friendships, school life, or hobbies.
- Secretive behaviour or being cagey about where they are going and who they are meeting.
- Withdrawal from family members
- Careless about personal hygiene
- Frequently getting into trouble
- Large phone bills
- In possession of very small plastic bags, foil, cling film or paper wraps.
- Drugs paraphernalia, including grinders.
- Money or valuables going missing.
- In possession of significant sums of money.
- Appearance of a 'new' group of friends
- Bloodshot eyes, pupils larger or smaller than usual
- Unusual smells on the breath, body or clothing
- Very pale appearance
- Shaking, dizzy, fast pulse
- Being sick

Guiding principles

- A designated member of staff is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Head teacher.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use, possession of or the supplying of drugs will almost certainly result in an exclusion or permanent exclusion.
- The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses that which is most appropriate.

Procedures

- **Medical emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm, medical help will be sought immediately, including calling an ambulance.

The priority will be the student's safety. Parents or carers will be contacted immediately.

- **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary.

Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Parents of students will be informed and other professionals from Stockport Family, Mosaic Service, Youth Offending Service, Police, School Nursing Service and Social Care may be informed or consulted as appropriate

- **Individuals suspected of being in the possession or under the influence of drugs**

If a person is suspected of being under the influence of any substance, or suspected of bringing any prohibited substances into school or supplying in school, the following process will be implemented:

- The Designated Safeguarding Leads/ Year Inclusion Managers / member of SLT will be informed and the person will be interviewed and a written record made.
- The person will be searched by staff either male or female staff dependent on the gender of the student. It is usual for 2 members of staff to be present during the search.
- If a student has been involved in a banned activity around substance misuse, their parents or carers will be informed by the school.
- If the student refuses to comply with the school's investigation, the police will be told and advice sought.
- The senior member of staff is responsible for following through the matter and keeping dated records of the incident and the follow up actions taken.

- **Support for Students**

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions will most likely include consultation and subsequent referral.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded as soon as possible. Forms will be stored securely in the student file and noted on the school's SIMS system.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm, if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the student, in advance, of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures, staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Staff training and support

We recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. An appropriate member of staff will organize training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

Links to other policies

See also the school's Behaviour Policy, Safeguarding Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Managing Medical Needs Policy, and the Health & Safety policy.

DfE February 2014: Advice for Headteacher's, school staff and governing bodies on Screening, searching and confiscation.

School staff can search a student for any item if the student agrees.

Head teachers and staff authorised by them, have a statutory power to search students or their possessions, without consent, where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item:

- Knives or weapons
- Alcohol
- Illegal drugs
- Stolen items
- Tobacco and cigarette papers
- Fireworks
- Pornographic images
- Any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence, to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the student)

The powers allow school staff to search regardless of whether the student is found after the search to have that item. This includes circumstances where staff suspects a student of having items such as illegal drugs or stolen property which are later found not to be illegal or stolen.

School staff can view CCTV footage in order to make a decision as to whether to conduct a search for an item.

Confiscation

Head teachers and authorised staff can seize any prohibited item as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Screening

School may if necessary require students to undergo screening by a walk-through or hand-held metal detector (arch or wand) even if they do not suspect them of having a weapon and without the consent of the students. If a student refuses to be screened, the school may refuse to have the student on the premises. Health and safety legislation requires school to be managed in a way which does not expose students or staff to risks to their health and safety and this would include making reasonable rules as a condition of admittance.

Searching with consent

If a member of staff suspects a student has a banned item in his/her possession, they can instruct the student to turn out his or her pockets or bag and if the student refuses, the teacher can apply an appropriate punishment as set out in the school's behaviour policy. A student refusing to co-operate with such a search raises the same kind of issues as where a student refuses to stay in a detention or refuses to stop any other unacceptable behaviour when instructed by a member of staff – in such circumstances, schools can apply an appropriate disciplinary penalty.

Policy	Date modified	Date of approval	Review date	Governor Committee	Responsibility
Substance Abuse	January 2017	January 2017	January 2020	Achievement	JDE

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