

Drugs Policy

This policy has been written for...	All staff at West Heath School who have contact with students, their parents and carers and for those who sponsor student's places. All staff should have a working knowledge of this policy. Whilst students will not be familiar with the details of this written policy they will be made aware of its contents.
Copies of this policy may be obtained from...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The school website - http://www.westheathschool.com It is available as a hard copy on request from the school office Hard copies for reference are filed in the staff room and staff library
This policy links with the following policies	Exclusion, Positive Behaviour
Participants and consultees in the formulation of this policy were...	The Principal, senior leadership team, student services committee and the trustees of the School. A representative group of parents were invited to make comments and suggestions.
Edition, Review frequency and dates	This is edition 9, released March 2021 Note: All West Heath Policies are currently being overiewed, this policy is renewed and will be replaced, if necessary, in September 2021
Relevant statutory guidance, circulars, legislation & other sources of information are...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document summarises the Children Act 2014 and references related documents Protecting Young People: Good Practice in Drug Education at School [Free from DfEE Publications Unit. Tel:0845 602 2260] Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers advice for School September 2012
The Lead Member of staff is	The Principal
Definitions and key terms used in this policy...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The definition of a <i>drug</i> given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. In this policy the terms "<i>drugs</i>" and "<i>substances</i>" are used interchangeably to cover all controlled substances as well as aerosols and glues when used for sniffing. The term "<i>substance abuse</i>" also covers the misuse of prescribed medications. <i>Controlled substances</i> and <i>Class A, B & C drugs</i> are defined in Appendix 1 which contains additional detail.
The Rationale and Purpose of this policy	<p>West Heath School, undertakes to provide a safe environment in which pupils are free from the opportunity or enticement to take drugs. Our students are taught about the dangers and consequences of drug-taking. By fostering healthy, social and emotional development the School works hard to reduce the likelihood of students being drawn into such activity both outside school and later in life.</p> <p>Nevertheless, it is recognised that on occasions our students do not live up to our expectations. This policy sets out what are the consequences of not doing so. In framing this policy, the School spells out very clearly that no student under its care has the right to use his or her personal freedom in a way that does cause or could cause serious harm to themselves or to others.</p>

Appendices	This policy has 2appendices.
Introduction	West Heath School has a culture of eradicating the use of Class A, B & C drugs, the misuse of prescribed medication and the misuse of solvents either on the school premises or during school activities outside. West Heath School also believes that it is unacceptable for any member of staff working at the school to take illegal drugs at any time. Furthermore, West Heath School does not permit the smoking of tobacco either by students or members of staff on the school premises or school activities outside.
The Aims of this policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that West Heath School is a safe, drug free environment 2. To educate students about the law relating to drugs and the dangers and consequences of taking drugs 3. To foster the personal and emotional development of students to enable them to resist enticement and pressure to take drugs.
The Objectives to meet the above aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement an ethos of the culture of zero tolerance of substance abuse within the School. • To ensure that the ethos of the school reflects evident respect for all individuals, staff, students and visitors and provides a pleasant ordered environment for the benefit of everyone.
In relation to aim 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that members of the School staff know how to respond correctly when they suspect or discover that a student is taking drugs at school, supplying drugs at school or arriving at school under the influence of drugs.
In relation to aim 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all students receive accurate information about drugs and their short - and long-term physical, mental, and social effects. • To ensure that students know and understand the legal consequences of drug taking.
In relation to aim 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To assist students in developing personal skills and self-confidence in order that they will resist peer pressure to use drugs and grow up safely in a society where drugs are readily available. • To re-establish belief in them so that drug use as a means of escaping from life's pressures will not be necessary. • To assist any students with an existing substance abuse problem to get help to overcome it. • To ensure that the expected standards of behaviour apply to all who use the premises whether on or off duty.
Procedures & Practices relating to the implementation of this policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any student thought to be in possession of or using a Class A, B or C drug on the premises is questioned first by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The student's parent or guardian is contacted, followed by the police Youth Crime Reduction Officer in accordance with Kent Constabulary Guidelines. [The police then, if appropriate, carry out any search they deem necessary.] The police may have three distinct roles:
In relation to aim 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [i] Advisory – informal advice when needed [ii] Investigative – help with testing a substance [iii] Specialist support from School's Liaison Officer. [See other participants and stakeholders]

- For a student found to be using or supplying class A drugs, a placement meeting will be called immediately. Such students will not be allowed to remain at the school.
- Any student found in possession or under the influence of or using a Class B or C drug on the premises illegally is excluded on a fixed-term basis with immediate effect. The length of the term will depend of the nature of the drug and whether this is a first or subsequent instance.
- For any student caught smoking tobacco on the school premises there will be a sanction.
- This will vary and will be influenced by the degree of parental support that is realistic. Some students' parents have a permissive approach to smoking and allow it at home. Nevertheless, the school holds fast to its non smoking policy for all students and staff. Persistent offenders will be required to stay for an after school detention and this may involve parents to fund alternative transport or to collect. In some cases, parents / carers will be asked to meet with the Principal and the student to find a way forward.
- Any illegal substance found on the premises is immediately confiscated and held securely in a safe for collection by the police. Any student found to be supplying class A, B or C drugs will be excluded from the School.
- Any student caught using alcohol or abusing a [solvent], volatile substance [butane, aerosols, alkyl nitrates] on the premises is suspended for 1 day and must be accompanied by a parent on his/her return to the School, reporting to the Principal or Vice Principal. Further offences result in an increasing scale of fixed term exclusions and encouragement, with the support of parents, to attend a programme of counselling. Persistent misuse of substances, alcohol or solvents may result in permanent exclusion from the school
- Any member of staff suspecting or having evidence of drug or tobacco abuse should enter details onto Behaviour Watch. Any qualified first-aider called to help a student in difficulty, and in whose judgement the issue may be drug related, should take the student to the local A&E department if this is judged to be necessary and then inform the appropriate middle manager.
- This policy also applies to Key Stage 5 students regardless of where they are located.
- All incidents and relevant information will be recorded on Behaviour Watch.

Drug Testing: We may decide to instigate a drug test and if so a student will be subject to an agreed weekly drug test where the school has evidence:

- the student has brought drugs onto the school premises
- the student has been observed as under the influence of drugs
- of serious concerns relating to the supply or use of drugs

A signed letter of agreement will be made between student, parent/carers and the relevant local authority (if LAC/CiC) stating the testing duration and method of testing. If either student, parent, carers or local authority refuse to sign this agreement, the school reserve the right to either call a placement review and ask the Local Authority to find an alternative provision or for the school to educate the student offsite.

The preferred option of the school is for a weekly unannounced oral swab for a period of six weeks however there may be occasions that we

increase the frequency of the testing.

Students subject to drug testing will have this noted on their support plan/placement plan.

If drug/substance misuse concerns are identified within our admissions process, parents, students and when relevant other professionals, will be required to sign the school's drug testing agreement before placement commences.

In relation to aims 2 & 3

- All staff are encouraged and helped to keep abreast of current information on drugs and drug abuse. INSET training, is held on a regular basis and additionally when there is a particular need.
- The taught curriculum includes drugs education awareness. Drug education features in the syllabuses for Science, Citizenship, Self Science and Child Development. The physical, mental and social aspects are taught in order to promote awareness and accurate understanding of the issues.
- Issues of personal and social responsibility are covered in Self Science.
- The ethos of the School encourages students to build their self-esteem and make their own decisions leading toward a future of their choosing within the community.
- Outside speakers are invited into the School to speak to targeted groups of students on a regular basis. The school recognises the value of the Police community liaison officer who is most welcome in school.
- Arrangements for managing and administering medication on school premises are made clear to those students who have prescribed medication during their induction programme. The importance of safe and accurately recorded arrangements is highlighted.

Persons with particular responsibilities

- The Principal is responsible for the setting and implementation of all drugs policy.
- The Principal or a Vice Principal is responsible for liaising with parents, police, and any other external bodies in the case of any drug-related incident. The Principal, Vice Principal are responsible for liaison with parents and any external bodies in the case of incidents involving alcohol, tobacco, or [solvents] volatile substances.
- All members of staff are individually responsible for keeping abreast of current information regarding drug abuse, symptoms, and treatment including attending INSET training when arranged.
- The subject teachers for Biology, Child Development, Citizenship and Self Science are responsible for ensuring coverage and co-ordination of drugs education for students in all year groups.

Other Participants & Stakeholders

External agencies are instrumental in planning programmes targeted at students perceived to be most at risk of succumbing to peer pressure, etc. in

the community, and those in need of additional confidence building activities. In addition they are responsible for organising drug intervention programmes in conjunction with Kent Police.

The police and appropriate counselling/rehabilitation services are involved in any drug or alcohol related incidents.

Outside speakers from the police and appropriate awareness/counselling/ Rehabilitation services are invited in periodically to train staff and annually to speak to targeted groups of students.

Monitoring & Evaluation

SLT
Health & Safety Committee
Trustees
Student Services Committee

Appendix 1

Class A, B and C drugs

The different kinds of illegal drugs are divided into three different categories, or classes. These classes (A, B and C) carry different levels of penalty for possession and dealing.

The Misuse of Drugs Act is the main piece of legislation covering drugs and their categorisation.

Consequences for possession and dealing

		Possession:	Dealing:
Class A	Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, amphetamines (if prepared for injection).	Up to seven years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to life in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class B	Amphetamines, Cannabis, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine.	Up to five years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.
Class C	Tranquilisers, some painkillers, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine.	Up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.	Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine or both.

All of the drugs on the list above - whether Class A, B or C - are designated as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, and using them is illegal.

This information may be subject to change; we will ensure that we keep up to date on Government policy.

Class A drugs are considered to be the most likely to cause harm.

The Misuse of Drugs Act states that it is an offence to:

- possess a controlled substance unlawfully
- possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it
- supply or offer to supply a controlled drug (even if it is given away for free)
- allow a house, flat or office to be used by people taking drugs

The punishment is serious

Drug trafficking attracts serious punishment, including life imprisonment for Class A offences.

To enforce this law the police have special powers to stop, detain and search people under the 'reasonable suspicion' that they are in possession of a controlled drug.

For further information and links to related pages <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-law/> from which this information was taken.

Appendix 2 – Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern 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 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.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 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.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

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/ 14

DrugScope 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.drugscope.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: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

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: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://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. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org