

The Wren School

Drugs policy

Purpose and Background

The purpose of the school Drugs policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school;
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the school community;
- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, students, governors, parents/carers and the wider community;
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme;
- 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;
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and values and ethos of the school;
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and management of incidents involving illegal and other authorised drugs;
- Reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

The policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, visitors to the school and partner agencies working in the school whether they are on school site, school visits, travelling to and from the school or representing the school in any way.

This policy takes account of all relevant legislation.

Policy objectives

Drugs - A Definition

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave'

(United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime)

This definition includes all illegal and legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, medicines, volatile substances, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.

The majority of young people of school age have never used an illegal drug. Of those who do experiment with illegal drugs very few will go on to become problem drug users. However, most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco and alcohol. Every school therefore has a responsibility to consider its response to drugs and all schools are expected to have a policy which sets out the school's role in relation to all drug matters. (Drugs: Guidance for Schools DFES 2004)

The Wren School values and promotes drug education and the health and well-being of the school community. The policy supports the school vision of a healthy school where students are able to lead

safe and drug free lives. This school supports the view that illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the boundaries identified within the policy.

The aim of drug education is to ensure that all students are aware of the impact that drugs may have on themselves and the wider community. Drug education is delivered through PSHE, (including Wellbeing, SMSC and reflection time as well as Dynamic Days) as well as other subjects such as Science and PE. Visiting contributors may also choose to speak to students via assemblies

This policy should be widely publicised to all in the school community, for example through the school website, Newsletters, assemblies and the school council.

Management of the policy

School	This policy is implemented and managed by the Assistant Headteacher
Governing body	The Local Governing Board will review and ratify this policy on a regular basis in line with all relevant legislation.
Approval	Updated and ratified by LGB – September 2019
Next review due	September 2021

Associated policies

Anti-Bullying Policy

Behaviour Policy

Child protection and safeguarding children Policy

PSHE policy

Whistleblowing Policy

Practice and procedures

Drugs education

Drug education focuses on knowledge and understanding, skills and attitudes. The teaching programme will ensure that there is progression from year 7 to year 13 with topics and issues being included which are appropriate to the age and maturity of students.

Key Stage 3 focuses on effects and risks of smoking, alcohol and solvents, attitudes to drugs, influences on drug use, risk taking and peer pressure.

Key Stage 4 will focus on ways to avoid risky situations, how to cope in situations involving drugs, dangers of misusing alcohol and drugs, where to get help and advice and the impact of drug use on society.

Key Stage 5 will focus on different influences on alcohol and drug use, the role of community organizations in supporting people with drug and alcohol problems, where to go to get help and advice and coping with problems.

The scheme of work is produced by the PSHE leader in consultation with other subject leaders and external agencies.

The content reflects

- the statutory elements of the science national curriculum;
- aspects of the non-statutory framework for PSHE;
- programme of study for Citizenship.

In order to ensure that the drug education programme reflects the views of students and is relevant to them, they take an active part in planning the programme through:

- consultations with year group councils;
- completing evaluations;
- assessments at the beginning of teaching drug education to establish prior knowledge and understanding.

The drug education curriculum is reviewed as part of an annual PSHE and citizenship review led by the PSHE leader and based on student and teacher evaluations.

Involving outside contributors

Sometimes, aspects of the programme are taught by external agencies such as local drug workers, school nurses and police officers because they can bring another perspective to the teaching and enhance the programme. When external agencies are used, the lessons are planned with them, a Wren School teacher is always present.

The Management of drugs related issues

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is clearly unacceptable and in dealing with drug related incidents, the school's primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and of the school community as a whole.

Drugs related incidents can generally be placed into one of three categories:

- Rumours of use or dealing on or off the premises;
- Actual use or dealing on or off the premises, including a first aid response;
- Disclosures of own or others use from a student or parent/carer and requests for help and support.

All drug-related incidents should be reported, in the first instance, to the assistant headteacher (pastoral leader), and then the headteacher and other appropriate pastoral staff. These are the key staff involved in managing the incident.

Although there is no legal obligation to report an incident involving drugs to the police, we will inform police immediately if there is any incident involving a suspected illegal drug.

Responses to drug related incidents will be equally varied from the disciplinary to the pastoral and in accordance with the school's Behaviour Management Policy where appropriate. Students suspected of being in possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia may be searched. This will be done in the presence of a senior member of staff and at least one other adult. Female students will only be searched by female members of staff.

Parents/carers will be informed by appropriate staff if their child is involved in incidents involving illegal or unauthorised drugs.

If a student or parent/carer on the school site is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, then a senior member of staff must be contacted immediately. The student will be dealt with according to the school's Behaviour Policy.

If the police are required, then they should only be informed after consultation with headteacher or assistant headteacher (pastoral leader).

Incidents involving drugs must be recorded using school pro-formas, including witness statements where appropriate. The Wren School will follow the guidelines set out within the school's behaviour policy along with the local authority tariff when deciding on the consequence for such an offence.

Where there are incidents/suspected incidents of drug use or possession relating to students from other schools, an appropriate member of Wren School staff will liaise with the school/s involved to seek further information and inform them of our concerns. A decision will then be made as to whether the police are contacted. This decision will be made by the assistant headteacher and/or headteacher.

Authorised Drugs

Incidents involving legal drugs will remain school matters, although we will contact Trading Standards or the police about the sale of tobacco, alcohol and solvents to under age students from local shops.

Parents/carers of students who require the use of prescription drugs must make the staff in student reception aware of their needs and any drugs should be stored in the medical room. No other drugs (including over-the-counter painkillers) or drug paraphernalia should be brought into school by students at any time unless they are handed in to student reception for safe keeping.

Prescription drugs required by students must be stored within the cabinet in the medical room and issued by student reception or any registered first aiders.

The school is a no-smoking site.

Staff consumption of alcohol on the school site is only permitted at scheduled school functions approved by the headteacher.

Advice, Information and Referral (individually and in the classroom)

Honest and unbiased information should be given according to the policy. Staff should be aware that individual advice about a student's personal use of substances is not appropriate but that the provision of information about other sources of information/support agencies/help-lines is.

Confidentiality/Disclosure

Students need to be able to talk in confidence to staff without fear of being judged or told off. The welfare of young people will be central to our policy and practice, however; teachers cannot promise total confidentiality and this is made clear to students through the PSHE programme.

If a student discloses to a teacher he/she is taking drugs, the teacher will refer the student to the assistant headteacher or another appropriate member of staff, who will offer support as well as inform the headteacher. Parents/carers will be informed unless the considered advice of professionals involved is that to do so would be inappropriate or place the student at harm. Any information concerning drug use may be shared internally and externally with due consideration to students' rights and needs.

Staff Support and Training

Induction and ongoing CPD is available for all staff and relevant governors. This may include basic drug awareness, safe disposal of drug related paraphernalia, drug education training for teachers and specific training on supporting young people with drug related problems for staff with a pastoral responsibility.

Professional development may take a variety of forms such as training courses, shadowing or co-teaching with other members of staff and visiting other schools.

The headteacher and governors will continue to work together in reviewing the school policy and drug education programme. In the event of any drug related incident affecting the school, governors will be kept informed and the advice of the local authority sought.

Any responses made will take into account the particular circumstances presented and careful consideration will be given to the implications of any action taken, seeking to balance the interests of the student or students involved, their families, the school as a whole and the local community.

Associated documents

Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 2004

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools – September 2012