

Drugs Policy

(in conjunction with the Peninsula Multi Academy Trust)

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Key Contacts

Role	Name/ Details	Contact
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Integrated Front Door Wirral Children's Social Care	Service Desk	W: 0151 606 2008
Police	In an emergency For non-emergency but possible crime	999 101
Safer Schools Police Officer	Nyle Davidson	Nyle.Davidson@merseyside.police.uk

Drugs Policy

Policy Statements

- For the purposes of this policy, 'drugs' refers to all illicit and illegal drugs, including volatile substances (solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites), psychoactive substances (for example but not limited to, nitrous oxide and Spice), alcohol, tobacco, vapes / e-cigarettes and illegal drugs.
- Weatherhead High School will be an environment free from drugs, the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs and the "culture" of drugs.
- Medicines are handled in accordance with the school's Medicines Policy.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of all members of the community and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.
- Weatherhead High School seeks to educate its students and to help them develop into mature young people who are able to say no to drugs.
- The school acknowledges the importance of the pastoral care it provides and the curriculum in supporting and educating students to make well informed, sensible choices about drugs.
- The possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context, which is defined as on any school premises or during any school activity, is totally forbidden.
- Any instances of possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter and may result in permanent exclusion from school.
- When dealing with drugs related incidents, the school will follow guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education, Wirral Local Authority and Merseyside Police and will engage with external agencies, including the Police, as necessary.
- If concerns exist that a student is under the influence of drugs, the necessary medical advice will be followed to ensure the student is safe and any symptoms are effectively managed.

A Definition of Drugs

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act (1971), it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (for example, possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). This policy extends to those substances covered by the Act and other substances that are not illegal but may be consumed for intoxicating purposes such as solvents, alcohol and / or cigarettes. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 makes it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, or possess on custodial premises, any psychoactive substances.

Aims of the Policy:

- To ensure that Weatherhead High School is free from illegal and illicit drugs (including substances that may be used for intoxicating purposes such as volatile substances [solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites], alcohol and tobacco).
- To educate students on the effects of drugs on the mind and body.
- To provide opportunities for students to practise the personal and social skills and develop the strategies required to deal with situations involving drugs.
- To promote the self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth of all individuals.
- To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To support staff in the delivery of drugs education across the curriculum by providing necessary knowledge and skills through high quality CPD opportunities.
- To enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.
- To provide a clear framework for dealing with drugs related incidents where a student is under the school's authority. Being under the school's authority is defined as:
 - throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises
 - whenever students are involved in any activity organised by the school
 - whenever students are wearing school uniform or otherwise identifiable as a member of the school
 - whenever a student's drug related behaviour outside school may impact negatively on the school community.

Dealing with Illegal Drugs Related Incidents:

- Any drugs related incident will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, confidentially and promptly, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, Department for Education guidance, Wirral Local Authority guidance and Merseyside Police guidance.
- Any searches will be conducted in line with government guidance and school searching and screening procedures.
- All drugs related incidents will be handled by the Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher.
- The school will involve the Safer Schools Police Officer at the earliest opportunity.
- Parents/carers will be informed if their child is suspected of being involved in a drugs related incident.
- The school will inform the police of any drugs related investigation and will follow Police guidance on the safe disposal of any illegal substances / paraphernalia.
- Where it has been brought to the attention of the school that a student has been formally cautioned by the police or is under investigation for the possession of an illegal drug, the school reserves the right to deal with this as an internal disciplinary matter.
- Any student who is caught in possession of drugs paraphernalia will be dealt with as outlined above and places themselves at risk of either fixed term suspension or permanent exclusion from school.

Issue	Possible Sanction	Support
Under the influence of drugs in school	Fixed Term Suspension/ Permanent Exclusion	Post-suspension Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) provided External agency referral
Found with drugs on their person	Fixed Term Suspension/ Permanent Exclusion	Post-suspension Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) provided External agency referral Regular searches for a specified period of time
Consumption of drugs on the school premises	Fixed Term Suspension/ Permanent Exclusion	Post-suspension Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) provided External agency referral Regular searches for a specified period of time
Involved in drug related activities within the community whilst in school uniform	Fixed Term Suspension/ Permanent Exclusion	Post-suspension Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) provided External agency referral

Searches And Confiscation

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or unauthorised substances every effort should be made to persuade the person to hand over the substance in the presence of two adults. A full record of the exchange should be made by the observing member of staff.

Advice for Headteachers on searching and confiscations can be found in the DfE's guidance [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#).

Searching with Consent

Schools common law powers enable school staff to search students with their consent for any item. School is NOT required to have formal written consent from the student for this sort of search – it is enough for the teacher to ask the student to turn out his or her pockets and look in the student's bag and/or locker and for the student to agree.

Searching without Consent

The Headteacher or member of staff authorised by the Headteacher can search without consent if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student is in possession of a prohibited item or is likely to

commit an offence, or to cause personal injury, or damage. This includes illegal drugs, alcohol, vapes, tobacco, paraphernalia and/or any other item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

The police may conduct a personal search if they believe a crime has taken place or to prevent harm to a student or others following an arrest.

School has no legal obligation to report incidents involving illegal substances to the police; however, Weatherhead High School works in partnership with the local police, takes their advice and involves them or other relevant agencies appropriately.

Following a search, whether or not anything is found, including personal searches and searches of school and students' property, the school will make a record of the search undertaken (including the reason for the search, time and place, who was present, the outcomes and any follow-up action). There is no legal requirement to do this but is good practice to do so.

Procedures to Follow When Taking Temporary Possession

In the event of a student being found in possession of drugs, the school will remove the drugs from the student's possession and adhere to the agreed protocol for working with local police on the collection, storage, taking temporary possession and disposal of suspected controlled drug in school. The school will:

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout the process of taking possession of any drugs found on a student.
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and label with the date and time of the seizure/find and witnesses present.
- Store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff.
- Notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken but ordinarily the school will do so.
- Inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- Identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

Dealing with all other Drug Related Incidents (such as Solvents, Alcohol, Tobacco and E-Cigarettes)

The consumption of solvents, alcohol and / or tobacco on school premises is forbidden. The school's position reflects the fact that these substances are significant causes of preventable premature death and ill-health in society. The consumption of these substances can be habit forming and constitute anti-social behaviour. Under legislation, it is an offence for children under 18 years to purchase these products.

As with illegal drugs, the school will educate students on the immediate and long-term risks associated with the consumption of solvents, aerosols, gases, nitrites, alcohol and tobacco. Where appropriate, support and professional advice will be provided to students who want to 'give up'.

Issue	Possible Sanction	Support
Inhaling solvents or possessing solvents in school Consuming or being in possession of alcohol in school	Fixed Term Suspension	Post-suspension Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) provided External agency referral Regular searches for a specified period of time
Smoking or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco (including e-cigarettes)	Senior sanction Repeated offences will result in further sanctions such as possible suspension	Pastoral support External agency referral Regular searches for a specified period of time

The Education of Students on Drugs and their Associated Risks

The school will provide comprehensive education and guidance to students through the PSHCE Programme. This will be supported by our assembly programme, tutor time periods and external provider educational sessions. The purpose of this programme is to make students aware of what drugs exist and the short and long terms risks associated with consuming them. Students should be well prepared to make informed decisions about the consumption of drugs and other harmful substances. The full curriculum content that is taught to students is outlined in Appendix One.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the school community in relation to the application of this policy are outlined below:

Students

- To make positive decisions about drugs and other harmful substances, always respecting, themselves, others and the school environment.
- To engage positively with the curriculum to learn about drugs and other harmful substances and the risks associated with their consumption.
- To inform a responsible adult if they suspect that drugs, solvents, alcohol and / or cigarettes/e-cigarettes are being consumed or brought onto the school premises.
- To allow the school to offer help, inform a responsible adult if they have concerns about their own health / welfare or that of one of their peers.

Senior Leadership Team and the Headteacher

- To oversee the implementation of this policy.
- To organise appropriate training for staff to ensure they are confident in dealing with any incident associated with drugs and other harmful substances.
- To investigate any drugs related incident in accordance with the protocols outlined above.
- To inform the Governing Body and any relevant external organisations of drugs related incidents that have been investigated.

Parents

- To work in partnership with the school by reinforcing the material and messages taught to students through the PSHCE curriculum regarding drugs and other harmful substances.
- To support the school in its investigation of any drugs related incidents that may involve their child(ren).

Governing Body

- To approve and monitor the implementation of this policy.

Appendix One – Curriculum Information

Key Stage 3

Year 7

- The law and positive/negative use of drugs
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Healthy lifestyles

Year 8

- The impact of drugs on relationships
- What do we mean by risks and how do we manage them?

Year 9

- Unhealthy coping strategies
- County lines
- Managing the influences of substance misuse on decisions within relationships

Key Stage 4

Year 10

- Healthy lifestyles: influences on health
- Healthy lifestyles: being health aware
- Healthy & risks: Alcohol
- Personal Development Day: sexual health (Brook)
- Health & risks: vaping; looking to the future

Year 11

- Relationships: Exploitation and abuse in relationships
- Risks: Managing risks
- Risks: Drug and alcohol misuse

Key Stage 5

Year 12

- Response Workshop (drugs, alcohol and vaping)

Looking out for the physical symptoms or signs of drug use can be difficult. These symptoms will vary depending on the intensity and type of drugs that have been taken. Traditionally, it would be easy to smell drugs (such as cannabis) as a tell-tale sign of drug use. Some symptoms include:

- Sudden changes in mood/behaviour, unusual outbreaks of temper
- Disregard for physical appearance
- Loss of appetite or increase in consumption of set foods
- Use of deodorant to cover smell of drugs or solvents
- Drowsiness, sleepiness or slurred speech
- Unusual small, stained or marks on clothing or body or around the mouth and nose
- Marked interest in glue or solvent based products
- Soreness or redness around the eyes or mouth
- Flushed face or neck
- Dilated pupils
- Small groups meeting in secretive places
- Unsteady on feet
- Staining on hands

N.B. There are some symptoms that could be confused with signs of innocent behaviour.

There is a large range of equipment associated with drug use:

- Grinders
- Tobacco
- Skins
- Containers made from foil
- Small bottles or pillboxes
- Stash cans disguised as everyday objects
- Plastic bags
- Balloons
- Crackers (to open nitrous oxide)
- Twists of paper
- Empty solvent containers
- Cigarette lighters
- Drinks cans with extra holes
- Spent matches



Drugs are becoming a lot cheaper to purchase than previously thought, e.g. £1 per liquid gummy bear. These along with other illegal substances are now becoming more freely available to students in a variety of ways, more notably on platforms such as Snapchat and Instagram through the chat feature. Keep a lookout for your child having unknown numbers or usernames stored in their phones.

Below are common 'street' names for different types of drugs:

Cocaine: Coke; Blow; Rock; Crack; Sniff; White; Beak.

Ecstasy: X; Molly; E; Rolls; Candy; MDMA.

Heroin: Smack; Dope; Horse; Junk; Scag.

Marijuana: Weed; Pot; Hash; Green; Bud; Grass; Ganja; Dope; Spice; Skunk; Spliff; Poly.

Legal Highs: Spice; Balloons; MKat; Meow meow; Bubble; Bounce.

Ketamine: Mandy; Ket; Special K; Jet; Super acid.

Please Note: Edibles (such as Gummy bears) and e-cigarettes which include liquid cannabis are becoming more popular.



When drugs are consumed, it is likely that presentation and appearances will change. Here are some things to look out for:

- Keeping away from other students
- Being the subject of a 'drug' rumour
- Use of drug slang
- Excessive spending or borrowing
- Loss of money or belongings
- Perpetual stealing of money or goods that are then sold
- Changes in attendance
- Lack of participation in activities
- Loss of interest in a hobby
- Changes in friendships
- Decline in school performance
- Strangers around home or school

Police (101)

Report any non-emergencies to the Police by phoning 101. This will allow you to report any suspicious activity

External Support

There are a variety of support options via the Internet that will help you in identifying if drugs are being used or taken by anyone that you know. Links can be found below

School Support

There is support available from school should you need it. Please contact Mrs Walton (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or another member of the Student Services Team.



Minute Briefing

Information on drug safety at Weatherhead High School

add Addaction addaction.org.uk
Services for people who are dependent on drugs and their families.

FRANK Frank talktofrank.com
Information about recreational drugs, and free 24-hour

Adfam adfam.org.uk
Support and information for family and friends of people with drug problems.

DrugWise drugwise.org.uk
Information about drugs.

Managing Suspected Drugs Related Issues

