



WILSON'S SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

Approved by Governors: Summer 2022

This drug policy applies to the whole school, including the Sixth Form.

1. Introduction

All drugs, both legal and illegal, have the potential to harm; but some drugs are more harmful than others. For a small number of people, drugs have 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.

All schools are expected to have a policy which sets out the school's role in relation to drug matters.

1.1 Location and dissemination

A copy of the policy can be found in the policies section on the T: drive the school office and on the school website.

1.2 The context of the policy and its relationship to other policies

This policy should be considered in conjunction with other written policies on behaviour, health and safety, medicines, healthy schools, school visits and child protection.

1.3 Local and national guidance

This policy has been written, taking into account national and local guidance, in particular, guidance from the DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) *Drug advice for schools* (2012).

1.4 The purpose of the school drug policy is 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

- clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, pupils, governors, parents/carers, external agencies 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 the values and ethos of the school
- provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

1.5 Alcohol

Use and consumption of alcohol at school can only be authorised by the Head. In keeping with our duty of care, employees are not permitted to consume alcohol during the school day.

1.6 Tobacco

All buildings at Wilson's School are designated Non-Smoking. Vaping (the inhalation and exhalation of the vapour produced by an electronic cigarette or similar devices) is also not allowed.

1.7 Where and to whom the policy applies

This policy applies to all staff, pupils, parents/carers, governors and partner agencies working in Wilson's School. It includes journeys to and from school, work experience, day and residential trips and courses. Pupils must not bring controlled (illegal or unauthorised) drugs, legal drugs for which they have no prescription, cigarettes (including e-cigarettes) or alcohol (or items purporting to be any of these) or the paraphernalia associated with the use of these substances onto the school site at any time. Alcohol may only be consumed on the school site, at events with the Head's permission.

All sanctions in this policy also relate to the use or supply of drugs or substances purporting to be drugs involving Wilson's pupils or others outside of school. The school reserves the right to contact the police regarding drugs issues at any time.

1.8 Definitions

1. 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 feel, think or behave.
2. The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, psychoactive (including substances sometimes referred to as New Psychoactive Substances which are designed to mimic illicit drugs previously known as 'legal highs') or volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- all over-the-counter and prescription medicines
- any substance purporting to be any of the above.

1.9 The role of Trustees

The School Trustees will review this policy in line with the policy review timetable. They will also be involved in disciplinary proceedings as appropriate.

2. The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of pupils

Wilson's School has a zero tolerance policy towards the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs or substances purporting to be such or the paraphernalia associated with the use of such substances within the school boundaries and elsewhere as defined above in 1.7 "Where and to whom the policy applies."

Invitations, issued during the school day, or during school activities, to locations or events outside of school with the intention of supplying illegal or unauthorised drugs or substances purporting to be such will not be tolerated.

2.1 Responses for managing drug related incidents

Incident	First Occasion	Second Occasion	Third occasion
Possession of Class C Drugs or substances purporting to be such (or NPS - New Psychoactive Substances)	<p>Fixed term suspension.</p> <p>Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Parents and pupil understand legal position from Head.</p> <p>Consequences of 2nd offence made clear.</p> <p>Incident logged.</p> <p>Offer to refer pupil to appropriate counselling or other agency.</p> <p>Drug education assessment by HoY. (To ensure curriculum/pastoral programmes address issues raised).</p>	<p>Permanent Exclusion.</p>	

<p>Possession of Alcohol or substances purporting to be such</p>	<p>Fixed term suspension.</p> <p>Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Consequences of further offences made clear.</p> <p>Incident logged.</p>	<p>10 day fixed term suspension.</p> <p>Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Drug education assessment by HoY (To ensure curriculum/pastoral programmes address issues raised).</p> <p>Possible behaviour/health intervention.</p> <p>Offer to refer pupil to appropriate counselling or other agency.</p> <p>Contractual agreement with parents. Governors Disciplinary.</p>	<p>Permanent exclusion.</p>
<p>Possession of cigarettes (or e-cigarettes / vaping)</p>	<p>Head's Detention</p> <p>Items confiscated.</p> <p>Parents notified.</p> <p>Pupil required by HoY to complete a reading comprehension on hazards and costs of smoking. During detention.</p>	<p>2 day "internal exclusion"</p> <p>Items confiscated.</p> <p>Parents notified asked to seek medical attention or offer parental rewards for giving up smoking: negotiated by HoY</p>	<p>Fixed term suspension for repeated defiance of school rules.</p> <p>Items confiscated.</p> <p>(Further incidences to be considered by Head in light of repeated defiance of school rules.)</p>
<p>Possession of suspected Class A or B Drugs or substances purporting to be such or possession of paraphernalia associated with the use of illegal or unauthorised drugs</p>	<p>Permanent exclusion or where exceptional circumstances apply, fixed term suspension.</p> <p>Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Police contacted.</p> <p>Drug education assessment by HoY (To ensure curriculum/pastoral programmes address issues raised).</p> <p>Risk assessment to determine immediate health/ child protection issues relating to pupil.</p>	<p>Permanent exclusion.</p>	

Social Supply of Drugs or substances purporting to be such	<p>Permanent exclusion.</p> <p>Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Police contacted if deemed appropriate by the Head.</p> <p>Risk assessment for pupil(s) and others in school.</p> <p>Investigation into any network of illegal drug use conducted by HoY and SLT.</p>		
Supply for profit of legal or illegal drugs	<p>Permanent exclusion Substance confiscated.</p> <p>Parents and Police contacted.</p>		

2.2 Responding to a drug related medical emergency.

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.

2.3 Staff with key responsibility for drugs:

Tutorial Programme (PSHE) co-ordinated by the PSHE Coordinator.
 Management of drug related issues in school: Deputy Head
 If any member of staff has concerns about any drug related incident then they should immediately inform a member of the Senior Leadership Team

3. Searches

Searches will be carried out with the Department for Education's [Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools](#) (2018).

3.1 Searches of school property

Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' lockers if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent does not need to be sought. If it is, individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may proceed with a search.

4. On finding drugs

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 destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it. Searching and screening pupils is conducted in line with the DfE's [guidance on searching, screening and confiscation](#).

Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances.

4.1 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.
- Without delay a member of the Senior Leadership Team will notify the police, who will be asked to collect it and then securely store or dispose of it. Liaison will take place to ensure the safe disposal of any substances.
- 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 drug the school will normally do so. Where a pupil is identified, the police will be required to follow set internal procedures
- 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 by police take place at school. An appropriate adult should always be present during police interviews, preferably a parent/carer or duty social worker.
- Staff should 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.

4.2 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, volatile or psychoactive substances to pupils in the local area.

4.3 Alcohol and tobacco

Parents/carers will be 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.

4.4 Volatile substances

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

4.5 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.

4.6 Disposal of drug paraphernalia

Needles or syringes found on school premises will be placed in a sturdy, secure container, using gloves. Used needles and syringes will be disposed of appropriately and not put in domestic waste.

4.7 Police contact

First point of contact: School Police Liaison Officer. Contact details are available from the school office. If they are unavailable, a message should be left to contact the school and in the case of controlled drugs, Sutton Police Station should then be telephoned.

4.8 Referral and external support

HoYs and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for referral to agencies.

A list of local support services and national helplines/websites is available for pupils and parents on the school website.

Pupils are made aware of the various internal and external support structures via the Tutorial Programme. Local support services and national helplines/websites are advertised on the school website and in the pupil planner. Information is available from HoY for individual pupils or parents as and when required.

4.9 Confidentiality

Teachers cannot and must not promise total confidentiality.

If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and which the pupil asks not to be passed on, it should be discussed with the HoY or a member of Senior Leadership Team.

The request will be honoured unless this is unavoidable in order for teachers to fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- child protection
- co-operating with a police investigation
- referral to external services.

Every effort will be made to secure the pupil's agreement to the way in which the school intends to use any sensitive information.

It may be necessary to invoke local child protection procedures if a pupil's safety is under threat. It will be only in exceptional circumstances that sensitive information is passed on against a pupil's wishes, and even then the school will inform the pupil first and endeavour to explain why this needs to happen. These exceptions are defined by a moral or professional duty to act:

- where there is a child protection issue
- where a life is in danger.

4.10 Involvement of parents/carers/visitors

In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs the school will normally involve the child's parents/carers and explain how they intend to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs.

Where the school suspects that doing 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 involving parents/carers. In any situation where a pupil may need protection from the possibility of abuse, the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead should be consulted and local child protection procedures followed.

Parents/carers are encouraged to approach the school if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs and their child and the school will refer parents/carers to other sources of help, for example, specialist drug agencies or family support groups, as required.

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 Safeguarding Team will discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home.

5. The school recognises that there are instances where other non- controlled drugs and other substances may legitimately be in school.

5.1 Medicines

Some pupils may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. Staffing, administration, storage and record keeping procedures are set out elsewhere.

Also set out elsewhere are the circumstances in which a pupil may take non-prescribed/over-the-counter medicines, such as those providing relief from hayfever.

School staff do not give non-prescribed medication to pupils unless supplied with written authorisation by parent/carer.

The sanctions in this policy do not apply to the properly authorised use and possession of prescription and non-prescription medication by a pupil for personal consumption.

5.2 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 access or use. Arrangements are set out in the school's health and safety policy.

6. Drugs and the school curriculum

The school delivers a curriculum which:

- Promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society
- Prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Drug education is a major component of drug prevention and is an important aspect of the school's PSHE curriculum. Its aim is to provide opportunities for pupils to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions.

6.1 The Aims of Drugs Education

To increase pupils' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:

- a) the short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs
- b) the rules and laws relating to drugs
- c) the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
- d) the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers
- e) the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
- f) develop pupils' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - g) assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - h) communicating effectively
 - i) resisting pressures
 - j) finding information, help and advice
 - k) devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - l) developing self-awareness and self-esteem
- m) enable pupils to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

6.2 Methodology and resources

Drug education is delivered through a well-planned cross-curricular programme, including assemblies, PSHE, and science lessons.

Drug education is delivered within a safe, secure and supportive learning environment.

Ground rules are set out, and teachers' and pupils' rights to privacy are respected. Boundaries of discussions are made clear in order to foster mutual respect and an environment in which pupils feel comfortable and ready to listen to and discuss each other's opinions.

Distancing techniques can be adopted through role play/anonymous question boxes.

Staff are advised to sometimes answer difficult questions on an individual basis.

A variety of teaching resources are outlined in the PSHE scheme of work and are available from the appropriate HoY.