



THE
**WALDESLADE
& GREENACRE**
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Drug & Alcohol Policy

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Statement of Equality

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

Purpose

The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership is dedicated to the well-being and safety of its members and will take measures to both inform and educate while ensuring their safety. The school will not tolerate the improper use of drugs or alcohol by its members, nor will it permit the illegal distribution of such substances.

Policy Aims

- To promote a healthy way of life.
- To educate and provide information about drugs, their usage, and misuse.
- To minimise harm and prevent drug misuse.
- To appropriately intervene in cases of drug misuse while following child protection protocols.
- To promote the development of self-esteem, assertiveness, and decision-making.
- To enable young individuals to identify sources of suitable personal support.

The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership acknowledges that some young people may choose to take risks. Nevertheless, the school will never knowingly allow or tolerate the possession, consumption, distribution, or offer of unauthorised drugs on or near the school premises. Any violations of this policy will be thoroughly investigated and addressed. Drug use or misuse will always be addressed through a combination of sanctions and supportive measures.

Drug Policy Statement

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”. Here, “drugs” and “drug education” is used to refer to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapes, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs (‘legal highs’).
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.
- All drugs paraphernalia including; pipes, cigarette papers, filters, grinders etc.

Medicines

Any medication that is deemed necessary by a medical professional, will be permitted at school in all contexts (see Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions policy). This includes self-medication (supervised) and medicines administered by trained staff members (for example epi-pen training). No member of staff is authorised to administer medicine or treatment to a student, except in an emergency or if it is part of a student’s health care plan. In addition:



- Parents have the primary responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with all relevant information about their child's medical condition.
- Medicines should only be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.
- Medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed and must include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage.
- Medication must be given to reception and stored with First Aid, students should not have medication in their bags unless known e.g. asthma pumps.

Smoking/E Cigarettes Free School

In accordance with part 1 of the Health Act 2006, The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields, car parks and sheltered areas. Parents, visitors, and staff must not smoke on school grounds and will avoid smoking/vaping in front of students and/or encouraging students to smoke. In the interest of health and hygiene, smoking/vaping will not be permitted at, or around, the school gates.

Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during a school day. Any person (staff, students, parents, carers, and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return later for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they encounter them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents, this includes aerosol cans. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Threatening Behaviour

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by students, staff, or visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously. Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, Walderslade and Greenacre Schools Partnership will not hesitate in contacting the police. Any student, staff member or visitor displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises. In the case of students, parents will be contacted and should the need be serious, the police will be called.

The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time, work experience, day, and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis.

Education and Prevention

Drug Education is a major component of drug prevention. We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided through the Personal Development (PD) curriculum, classes, and assemblies. Where appropriate, visitors and external



speakers will join us to lead classes/assemblies on drug and alcohol misuse. We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific. The following aims of drug education are consistent with the values and ethos of the partnership and laws of society as well as being appropriate to the age, ability and maturity of the students, and relevant to their particular circumstances:

- To increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - local and national use
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
 - the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including
 - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures
 - finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences
- To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up to date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines, local youth and community services and drug services.

Managing A Drug Incident

Drug related incidents may include, but are not limited to:

- Finding cigarettes or vapes on school premises.
- 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.
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs.
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties).
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.
- Emergencies – where a student has lost consciousness or gone into a coma.
- Intoxication – where it is difficult to communicate with a student.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs (possession, supply or imbibing):

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- The Headteacher or an available member of SLT will be informed of the situation immediately.
- Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or a member of SLT as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
- The Headteacher or a member of SLT will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
- Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, the member of staff will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93).
- If something illegal, or of concern is discovered then parents and carers will be notified by the school.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
- A detailed record of the incident will be made as per the school procedures.
- The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with police and other relevant agencies. The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with them, as per the Behaviour Policy

There will not be an automatic sanction applied to a drug related incident. Any response will be taken after considering all the facts about a student, including the circumstances in which a drug related incident has occurred. A record of any drug related incident is to be completed and kept on file.

Responses will reflect the context of the incident and the students; they may include, but are not limited to:

- Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid, and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
- Sanctions, including suspension or permanent exclusion.
- Referral to alternative educational provision.
- Reporting the matter to the police.
- Involving parents and student in a meeting with the police.
- The creation of a behaviour support plan or other appropriate support plan.
- A managed move.
- Monitoring progress and behaviour through the school's pastoral support processes.
- Identifying appropriate support either in school or from outside agencies to provide 1:1 or small

- group support E.G. Open Road referral.
- Ensuring the student is not a victim of bullying, coercion or similar treatment.
- Referral to the appropriate social services agency, consultation with other outside agencies or referral to the education psychologist for assessment.
- A letter home or a meeting with parents/carers.
- Any response will be within the context of the school's overall duty to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its members.
- In the event of banned substances i.e. tobacco or illicit substances (e.g. class A, B or C drugs) being discovered or a student likely to be under the influence, the first resort will be permanent exclusion.

Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school grounds will be escorted from the premises, and where appropriate the police will be notified. The Headteacher has the authority to ban offenders from the school.

Confidentiality

The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Safeguarding policy for more information).

Right To Search

In line with legislation and guidance the staff at The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. There is a nominated list of those staff who can instigate a search, on instruction of the Headteacher. Details of this can be found in our Behaviour policy.

The Role of Outside Agencies

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), Social Services, the Local Authority, Children and Young Peoples Mental Health Services (CYPMHS) or Open Road. See Appendix A for a list of useful organisations.

Controlled Substances

The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership has a zero-tolerance policy on illegal drugs. Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will

- Seal the sample in a plastic bag or envelope and include details of the date and time of the confiscation.
- Name of any witness/witnesses present.
- Store the sample in a secure location.

The incident will be reported immediately to the police who will collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols. The Walderslade & Greenacre Schools Partnership will not hesitate in

giving the police the name of the students, from whom the drugs were taken. A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the Headteacher.

Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy. Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, parents of the students, as well as local police, will be notified.

Staff Responsible

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, governors, and partner agencies working with the partnership. It is the responsibility of all teaching and support staff to implement this policy. Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support, and training as part of their own professional development.

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for this policy and its implementation, including liaison with the governing body and parents.

Legal Framework

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to the following:

- DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education'
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education Act 2011
- The Health Act 2006

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the:

- First Aid Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- PSHE Policy
- Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

Appendix A - 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.

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.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

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

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

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

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

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

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk> Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>