Whittington Green School

Dream Reach Achieve

Drug Policy

Policy Details	**Date**
Policy Written	July 2020
Policy reviewed	July 2022
Review cycle	2 yearly
Policy review date	Autumn 2024

Introduction

The policy is part of Whittington Green's safeguarding portfolio. Our core safeguarding principles are:

- The school's responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance.
- Representatives of the whole school community of students, parents/carers, staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review.
- Polices will be reviewed annually, unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.

Our policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in the school. There are four main elements to our policy:

- Whittington Green School condones neither the misuse of drugs by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.
- Whittington Green School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well- being.
- Whittington Green School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral and curriculum role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.
- Whittington Green School recognises that we live in a society in which drugs are widely used. We believe that we have an obligation to inform and empower our students to enable them to make decisions that will result in them enjoying a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

The Policy applies to the drug education within Whittington Green School and the use/misuse of drugs on the school site both within and outside school hours. It applies to all Whittington Green School students whether they be educated at Whittington Green or off-site in another educational provision.

Definitions and Terminology:

Where this policy refers to the term 'drug', this includes alcohol, tobacco, e-cigs, illegal drugs, medicines, novel psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified. External agencies include, but are not limited to, the Police, Multi-Agency Teams, Social Care and specific drug advice support services.

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of students:

Illegal or unauthorised drugs are not acceptable on the school premises.

Authorised drugs (medically necessary drugs) are accepted on the school premises but these must be handed in to Reception, along with a parental permission form detailing dosage (see First Aid and Administration of Medication Policy). The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of students. Sources of advice and local services are listed in this policy (Appendix 1).

Staff with key responsibility for drugs

The Headteacher and/or Deputy Headteacher will take overall responsibility for:

- The policy and its implementation
- Liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LEA and appropriate outside agencies
- The provision of adequate training and support for identified staff.

- Give the authority to appropriate staff (members of the Senior Leadership Team and the members of the Pastoral Team) in order to search students;.

The Deputy Headteacher will;

- Ensure the policy is up-to-date and reviewed.
- Liaise with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies
- Have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of the policy.
- Be responsible for the co-ordination of the drug education programme for their year group.
- Ensure that the school and Governors are aware of up-to-date educational good practice and necessary training needs.

Principles:

Whittington Green School believes that it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse.

We believe that the education of our students is a partnership between the home, school and, where necessary, external agencies. Drug misuse is an issue for parents, family members and the local community as well as for the school. Effective communication and co-operation is essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising there are far larger numbers of them who choose not to use such substances. We will strive to affirm and support their decision.

The needs of students:

At Whittington Green we believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse;

- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing practising skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.
- To seek to minimise the risk that users and potential users face.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curriculum activities. We teach drug education mainly through PSHE and science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Care, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish those who require general information and education, those who could benefit from targeted prevention and those who require a more detailed assessment of their needs.

Students whose parents/carers or family members misuse of drugs:

The school will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the young person is experiencing difficult home circumstances.

We endeavour to be pro-active in the early identification of young people's needs and in safeguarding the students in our care. Where problems are observed or suspected, or if a student chooses to disclose that there are difficulties at home and it is not deemed a safeguarding issue, the school will assess the student's welfare and support needs – this will include a referral to the Early Help Team.

The involvement of other sources of support such as Children's Services, MAT, services commissioned by the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAAT) programmes and, where appropriate, the family.

Tobacco – Smoke Free School:

Whittington Green School is subject to the same smoke free legislation as other premises.

The school is a smoke-free site. The school provides information and support for smokers to quit e.g. promoting access to smoking cessation classes and access to the School Nurse.
All stake holders are made aware of the smoke-free site policy.
Disciplinary actions will be used against those not conforming to the smoke free legislation.
In the case of students in possession of tobacco, or smoking materials; these will be confiscated and disposed of (or handed to the police) they will not be returned to either the student or a parent/carer.

Management of drug incidents:

We acknowledge that there will still be some young people of school age who will choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. With this in mind it is necessary for us to have clear procedures for dealing with drug related incidents on school premises and for working with other services concerned with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.

The school will consider each substance incident individually and we recognise that a variety of responses incorporating both sanctions and counselling, will be necessary to deal with incidents. We will consider very carefully the implications of any action we may take, seeking to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other members of the school and the local community. Permanent exclusion will be used as a last resort as we recognise that this may only transfer the problem.

The school is aware of its legal obligations with regard to these issues. The school will continue to work closely with the school's Youth Engagement Officer on all issues relating to drug incidents with our students. Within the Pastoral System of the school we will continue to nurture an ethos that enables students to feel confident enough to discuss problems or concerns with staff.

The Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will take overall responsibility for co-ordinating the school's approach to drug incidents.

Lines of action when managing drug incidents will be as follows:

1. Staff who become aware of students in possession, or possibly in possession of drugs on school premises must notify the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher immediately.
2. The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher will decide the most appropriate manner in which the investigation will take place.
3. No member of staff will attempt to search a student suspected to be in possession of drugs without the presence of the Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher.

4. Two adults will be present throughout the search of a student.
5. A sample of the drug found should be placed in a sealed plastic bag with the date and time written on – with a witness present.
6. The sample should be stored in a secure location with limited access – namely the school safe.
7. If illegal drugs are found the police should be notified without delay. The law states that the student does not have to be named at this point but it is advisable to do so.
8. Full details, including the police incident number, should be recorded.
9. If the allegations are substantiated or are in need of further investigation the parent/carer will be contacted, unless it is not in the best interest of the student.
10. Any safeguarding concerns should be identified immediately.

Appropriate courses of action may include:

- The calling of a case conference involving the student, parent/carer, Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher.
- Thorough investigation of events and personal circumstances.
- Counselling and support for the student from an appropriate agency.
- Completion of a pre-CAF/CAF.
- Referral to the MAT.
- Fixed term exclusion from the school.
- A Governors Pre-Exclusion Meeting.
- A Governors Permanent Exclusion Meeting.
- Any combination of the above.

Students who are found to be selling or supplying drugs on the school site will be dealt with by the appropriate sub-committee of the Governing Body.

If a student collapses or is in danger of doing so, normal first aid procedures should be followed.

Any approaches from the media will be dealt with by the Headteacher.

Police Involvement:

Each case will be discussed on an individual basis and consultation with or involvement by the police will be as a direct result of this discussion.

Section 91, Education and Inspections Act 2006 states that a member of staff should confiscate, retain or dispose of a students property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Normally individual parents/carers will be informed in the case of alcohol, illegal drugs or potentially harmful substances have been found however there is no legal requirement for this to happen and as such decisions will be made in consultation with the police.

In the case of legal drugs (such as tobacco, e-cigs and alcohol) police involvement is not always necessary, however trading standards/police should be informed in regard to the inappropriate sale/supply of tobacco and alcohol to students in the local area.

Appendix 1

Local Organisation / Service	More information
Youngaddaction Derby Suite D & G Bateman Court Bateman Street Derby Derbyshire DE23 8JQ Telephone number: 01332 254505 Email address: YoungPersonsServiceDerby@addaction.org.uk	Provides drug and alcohol advice and information to young people under 18 years old.
Addaction Derbyshire 39 Holywell Street Chesterfield Derbyshire S41 7SH Telephone number: 01246 208946	Our aim is to help transform the lives of people affected by drug and alcohol problems. Not only do we help the individual recover from their dependency, but we also offer support to those closest to them. Working with families and loved ones forms a major part of Addaction's treatment ethos.
Alcoholics Anonymous (Derbyshire) Aa Derbyshire Intergroup Po Box 6583 Derby DE1 9LD Telephone number: 0115 941 7100 (8.00am to midnight) Email address: info@derbyshireaa.co.uk	Deals with all problems relating to alcoholism and offers advice to people who have a desire to stop drinking. Services are free, confidential and local.
Derbyshire Alcohol Advice 1st Floor Dents Chambers 81 New Square Chesterfield Derbyshire S40 1AH Telephone number: 0845 3084010 or 01246 206514 Email address: daaf@daaf.uk.com	We offer support and help to anyone aged eighteen or over, who is concerned about their drinking, or is affected by someone else's drinking. We also work with parents and families affected by alcohol. We offer free advice to organisations and training to those working with people affected by alcohol.
FRANK (National) Contact: 0800 77 66 00 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com	Provides free, confidential drugs information and advice 24 hours a day.