



The Warriner School

Drugs Policy

The Warriner School has a zero tolerance policy on drugs.

Aims

The Warriner School has a whole-school approach to drugs education as part of its commitment to being a healthy school. This policy aims to enable students to make informed choices by increasing their knowledge and providing opportunities for them to explore their own and others' attitudes to the use and misuse of drugs.

The appendices to this Policy set out the procedures to be followed when any misuse has been identified and provide clear guidance to ensure clarity and consistency. To protect the safety and well-being of all students and staff, drugs and alcohol must not be used, bought, sold, or otherwise obtained or brought on to the school site, during the period of travel to or from school or during the school day, including when students are on school visits, alternative provision or work experience.

The policy and procedures also apply to all students and all adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions will be made for students and staff who need to take prescribed medicines and in the case of authorised drugs (see Appendix 4).

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances as well as legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed medicines (see Appendix 4).

Roles and responsibilities

The **Head of school** will ensure that:

- A planned drug education programme is accessible to all
- Teachers of PSHE and Science are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education
- The zero tolerance policy is made clear to pupils, staff, parents, carers and visitors.
- Procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents are clearly laid down and are known by those responsible
- Qualified professionals are available to support all who feel they require such help; for example referral to Aquarius drug and alcohol support service.
- The school co-operates with relevant agencies to ensure compliance with current information, advice and legislation at all times.

All staff are expected to:

- Report drug incidents to the Head of school and authorised personnel
- Promote healthy lifestyles, and help identify appropriate support when required
- Support the school's zero tolerance and the implementation of the Policy

- Attend relevant INSET training to increase their own understanding of implications and consequences of drug use
- Aid pupils in making positive, informed choices, and resist peer pressures
- Impart accurate information or refer pupils to the relevant department or person who has that knowledge
- Widen their own knowledge and impart related health and social issues to pupils

Students, Parents or Carers will be expected to:

- Endorse and follow the school rules and policy
- Alert the staff and Head of School to any drug-related incident, or concern regarding a perceived drug problem
- Work in partnership to ensure The Warriner School continues to be free of drug misuse

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- They are well informed on current national drug policies
- They support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils and staff
- The policy is backed up by a fully supportive response to all those involved in any incident

Related publications and resources:

Department for Education and Association of Chief Police Officers (2012) DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools

www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools

Department for Education (2010) The Government Drugs Strategy

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/alcohol-drugs/drugs/drug-strategy/drug-strategy-2010?view=Binary>

FRANK: The national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs.

24 hour helpline: 0800 776600

www.talktofrank.com

Drinkline: A free helpline for anyone concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

24 hour helpline: 0800 917 8282

Smokefree: NHS Smoking helpline 0800 169 0 169

www.smokefree.nhs.uk

Related Policies:

Exclusion of Pupils

Safeguarding and Child Protection policy

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By: Head of School

Reviewed: January 2020

Next review due: January 2023

Approved by the Admissions Committee of the Governing Body: 6th February 2020

Appendix 1: The School's Response to drug or alcohol-related incidents

Medicines

The school has a procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Oxfordshire H & S guidelines.

Alcohol

Students and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises for the safety of the student and the whole school. Parents or Carers will be asked to collect their children. If necessary the incident will be dealt with as a medical emergency, First Aid administered and appropriate support summoned.

Smoking/ Vaping

The school is a non-smoking/ vaping site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises they will be confiscated and parents/carers informed.

Volatile Substances/Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely and students will be supervised if they come into contact with them in the course of their studies. If any volatile substances/solvents are found in the possession of students they will be confiscated and parents/carers informed. If a student is found engaging in substance abuse it will be treated as a critical incident and, if necessary, dealt with as a medical emergency, First Aid administered and appropriate support summoned.

Illegal substances, psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances

Where students are found to be in possession of, or under the influence of any illegal substance, psychoactive substance or other unauthorised substance, this will be treated as a critical incident.

In dealing with such incidents, the health and safety of all students in the school community is paramount. However, the school will make every attempt to support any student involved in a critical incident educationally and take due regard for the emotional and social welfare of all involved. Medical help will be sought as a matter of urgency, should it be necessary. Any material suspected of being an illegal substance including drug paraphernalia will be confiscated and put in a secure place to be handed to the police for disposal.

Any incident will be investigated fully and promptly in order to establish the facts. If it becomes clear that illegal substances are involved, parents or carers will be asked to come into school and the police will be involved. Other external agencies may also be involved as individual student needs dictate, as described in tiers 1 to 3 (appendix 4). All actions taken and decisions made will be recorded and the outcomes for the student and school community carefully monitored.

The Warriner School operates a zero tolerance of drug misuse. Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with DfE guidance on exclusions. Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the

student's involvement. **All cases where students are found with, or under the influence of, illegal substances, psychoactive substances or other unauthorised substances will result in an immediate fixed term exclusion to allow for the full facts to be investigated.**

Appendix 2: Personal Searches

Searches of personal property

Authorised members of staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers or desks if they believe drugs or drug paraphernalia (see Glossary) to be stored there.

In cases where an authorised member of staff wishes to search personal property, including students' property stored within school property, for example a bag or pencil case within a locker, the student will be asked to give consent.

Where consent is refused the authorised member of staff will consider, in the case of students, notifying parents or carers, who may persuade their child to give consent or calling the police. The authorised member of staff will always ensure that a second adult witness is present.

Personal searches

When a student is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs on their person, it is appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to encourage the student to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness. Authorised staff are only permitted to search at surface level, which will include blazer pockets, outer clothing and bags.

Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police will be called. The police can conduct a personal search if they believe a crime has taken place, or to prevent harm to themselves or others following an arrest.

After any search involving pupils, parents or carers will be contacted by the school regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative (Department for Education 2004)¹.

Appendix 3: Drug situations – medical emergencies

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disoriented or who has taken a harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

The school's main responsibility is for any pupil at immediate risk, but it also needs to ensure the well-being and safety of others. The school's First Aid procedures should be put into practice. If in any doubt, call for medical help.

¹ Department for Education (2004) Drugs Guidance for Schools: DfES/0092/2004
<https://www.education.gov.uk/publications/standard/publicationDetail/Page1/DfES%200092%202004> as accessed June 2012

Appendix 4: Glossary

Authorised drugs

Principally, 'authorised drugs' refers to medicines and any other drugs sanctioned for legitimate use (such as alcohol stored for a raffle, safe storage and use of hazardous chemicals). In all other circumstances, drugs are unauthorised whether legal or not.

Drugs

The term drugs refers to medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, new psychoactive substances, other unauthorised substances and illegal drugs .

Drug Action Teams

Drug Action Teams (DATs) are multi-agency teams, within every English Local Authority, with responsibility for the local delivery of the drugs strategy. They involve education, health, police, social services, youth service and the voluntary sector. In some areas they are called Drug and Alcohol Action Teams (DAATs) as is the case in Oxfordshire.

Drug incident

Suspicion or evidence of any situation or specific event involving a drug.
This could relate to a pupil, parent/carer or staff member.

Drug misuse

Drug misuse is drug taking which leads a person to experience social, psychological, physical or legal problems related to intoxication or regular excessive consumption and/or dependence. It may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behavior and require specific interventions, including treatment.

Drug use

Drug use is drug taking, for example, consuming alcohol, taking medication or using illegal drugs. Any drug use can potentially lead to harm, whether through intoxication, breach of the law or of school rules, or the possibility of future health problems, although such harm may not be immediately apparent. Drug use will require interventions such as management, education, advice and information, and prevention work to reduce the potential for harm.

Paraphernalia

This is the equipment used for drug taking, for example, pipe or bong, aluminium ('silver') foil, grinder, tobacco paper, needles and syringes.

Risk factors

There are a range of risk factors, which, particularly, in combination, may make children and young people more vulnerable to drug misuse and/or play a role in the later development of drug problems. These include chaotic home environments, lack of nurturing by parents or carers, parent or carers drug misuse, being in Local Authority care, truanting and school exclusion, school failure, association with drug using peers, early age of first drug use, neighbourhood deprivation or low socio-economic status, physical or sexual abuse, physical disabilities, mental health and behaviour problems, poor coping skills, homelessness, involvement in crime or prostitution and being labelled as a drug misuser.

Tier 1

This level involves interventions from general healthcare and other services that are not specialist drugs services, for example, hospital A & E departments, pharmacies, GPs, antenatal wards and social care agencies. Tier 1 services offer facilities such as information and advice, screening for drug misuse and referral to specialist drugs services. The Tier 1 School Health Nurse service provided at The Warriner School is confidential.

Tier 2

This is open access drug treatment (such as drop-in services) that does not always need a Care Plan. Tier 2 covers triage assessment, advice and information and harm reduction provided by specialist drug treatment services.

Tier 3

This is drug treatment in the community with regular sessions to attend undertaken as part of a care plan. Prescribing, structured day programmes and structured psychosocial interventions (counseling, therapy etc) are always Tier 3. Advice, information and harm reduction can be Tier 3 if they form part of a Care Plan

Volatile substance abuse

Volatile substance abuse refers to the inhalation, sometimes referred to as 'sniffing', of gas or vapors from volatile substances, including butane and propane, aerosol propellants, some glues and solvents, petrol, etc. for intoxicating purposes. The effects are much like those of alcohol, though they do not last as long. This can also be referred to as solvent misuse.

Vulnerable groups

Vulnerable groups are those at increased risk of the misuse of drugs.

Pupils found to be more vulnerable may include those who are in Local

Authority care, truants and pupils excluded from school, those who have been physically or sexually abused, homeless young people, those in contact with mental health services or the criminal justice system.