



WOLGARSTON HIGH SCHOOL

Staffordshire

*Drug Education
and
Managing Drug
Related Incidents*

Frequency of Review: Annually

Amendments

January 2018 – PJT
February 2020 - SMC

Statement

Wolgarston recognises the important role it has to play in helping to deliver the Government's National Drug Strategy in tackling misuse in conjunction with parents/carers and our wider community.

Definition

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime defines a drug as:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This Policy Statement refers to all drugs:

- illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971);
- legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers), and others as notified by changes in legislation and official guidance;
- over the counter and prescription medicines.

Aim

To implement a drug education programme appropriate to the age, maturity and ability of our students and agree a range of responses and procedures for managing drug incidents which are understood by all members of the school community. Details of how we will achieve this are covered below.

We will ...

- provide a drug education programme which gives young people the knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and relate these to their own and others' actions, both now and in their future lives;
- ensure that the school's formal drug education programme is supported by developing opportunities to promote drug education throughout the curriculum;
- support the drug education programme by a whole school approach that includes Wolgarston's values and ethos, staff training and the involvement of students, staff, parents/carers, governors and the wider community;

- send a clear message to the whole school community that the possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within the school boundaries is unacceptable and could lead to permanent exclusion and would commission a drug incident;
- clearly define the limits of Wolgarston's 'boundaries' and when our 'duty of care' responsibilities begin and end;
- manage drug incidents confidently and consistently by developing a range of responses which ensure the safety of any individual(s) and balances the needs of the individual(s) against those of a wider community;
- maintain full records in the pupil file of every incident and investigations of such and ensure that these records are stored securely and accord with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1988;
- involve the student's parents/carers in any drug incident unless by doing so would jeopardise the student's safety - the Designated Teacher for Child Protection to be consulted over any incident;
- encourage parents/carers to approach Wolgarston if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs and their child so that we can refer them to other sources of help such as T3;
- identify students who are vulnerable to drug misuse and offer appropriate support;
- establish and maintain clear referral protocols and communication routes between Wolgarston and the range of agencies providing support to young people;
- use a range of strategies in order to detect illegal drug possession or use - this includes working closely with the local police within the school boundaries;
- Taking possession of and disposing of illegal and other unauthorised drugs through the police;
- When required work proactively with the local media to promote healthy school initiatives and ensure that enquiries are handled in such a way as to encourage any reporting of drug incidents to be fair and accurate.
- work in conjunction with Staffordshire Police permitting contracted drugs dogs to visit classrooms and screen the area around students indicating whether there is evidence of contact with illegal substances. A letter explaining this is issued to the parents/carers of each new student, as part of their Induction Pack.

Commitment

As a school we are fully committed to the welfare of all our students and will constantly strive to improve our practices in order to achieve the above objectives.

As part of this we will seek to ensure that all staff receive appropriate drug awareness training and understand our drug policy and their role in implementing it.

Responsibilities

Ultimate responsibility for this policy's introduction and implementation lies with the Headteacher in consultation with the Governing Body.