



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY

Warlingham School has a commitment to a comprehensive programme for drugs education to enable young people to make and act on informed decisions about their own lifestyle. The school does not condone any taking of drugs or substances which are illegal, potentially harmful to the individual or others in the school community or which may inhibit learning and good standards of behaviour. Reference is made to specific drugs and substances below, but the list is not exhaustive, and students should note the seriousness with which the school will view any involvement with drugs or substances that may interfere with the well-being of students and/or the school's activities.

This policy applies to activities on or in the vicinity of the school premises, on the way to or from school, at school events and on school journeys and is in addition to any relevant national laws that may be in force at any given time.

Drugs education

The Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) programme includes units on drug issues, including alcohol, tobacco, aerosols, and other potentially harmful substances (including illegal drugs). Students acquire knowledge about the different substances, the effects of these substances and the law relating to them at all key stages. They have the opportunity to explore a range of values and attitudes, to look at stereotyping, peer pressure and media images. Students are encouraged to develop their personal skills in order to promote, choose and maintain a healthy lifestyle. PSHE provision is supported in relation to these issues by the Inspire Programme, the Science and Physical Education curriculum as well as school assemblies.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) Education is a school curriculum subject in England that focuses on strengthening the knowledge skills, and connections to keep children and young people and prepare them for life and work.

Smoking and E-cigarettes

The smoking of tobacco and use of e-cigarettes or vapes is illegal on site. Students who smoke or use vapes in school, in the immediate vicinity of the school or in school uniform outside of school or on school activities (e.g. trips/visits) will be placed in detention, isolation, Maple Room or, for persistent offenders, they may be excluded from school. Students must not bring cigarettes, tobacco, lighters, e-cigarettes/vapes or other equipment associated with smoking into school. Any such items will be confiscated and disposed of, and parents informed.

Alcohol and high caffeine drinks

The drinking of alcohol is not permitted, nor should students be in possession of alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol whilst engaging in school activities. Alcohol found in the possession of students who are in the care of the school will be confiscated and disposed of and any student who consumes alcohol on school premises or on school activities or who gives or sells it to others will be either internally or externally excluded from school.

High caffeine drinks must not be brought to school and should not be consumed before attending any school activities. They will be confiscated and disposed of, and parents informed.

Noxious substances

Students are not allowed to bring aerosol cans or other noxious and 'harmful', poisonous' substance such as certain types of glue, into school. It is expected that students will use, glues etc. sensibly and thoughtfully with due regard for their own health and safety and that of other. Parents will be contacted should staff have concerns about misuse and sanctions will result from their dangerous use. Aerosols and sprays should not be used in school.

Illegal drugs and substances

Some students will require the use of drugs prescribed specifically by their GP or hospital for medical conditions. In these cases, parents must inform Student Services when, in most cases, they will look after the drugs until needed by the student concerned. Otherwise, drugs must not be brought into school. Students are bound by national laws whether or not they are on school premises, on the way to and from school, at school events or on school journeys.

Illegal drugs and substances found in the possession of students will be seized at the earliest opportunity and given to the police. Students are not allowed to take, offer or supply (sharing or selling) illegal drugs and substances or psychoactive substances nor engage in any school activity under the influence of these. If members of staff gain information that a student is rumoured to be using or involved with illegal drugs and substances, steps will be taken to investigate and verify the situation and parents informed. It is our policy to always discuss such matters with our Police Liaison Officer.

The possession and taking of illegal drugs and substances are very serious offences; the full range of sanctions, including permanent exclusion, is available to the Headteacher. Any repeated offence will normally result in permanent exclusion as will the supplying of illegal drugs and substances. Such offences will also be referred to the police.

Carrying out and recording a search

If a student is reported to be under the influence of an illicit substance or carrying an illicit substance on the premises then the school will carry out a search.

A search would be led by a member of the SLT or DSL team and the lead staff member be the same sex as the student being searched. The school search script would be followed to outline to the student the process of the search and reason for the search. During the search a wand metal detector will sometimes be used if we are concerned the student may be carrying vapes or other illegal items concealed on them. If illegal items are found during the search the school will report this to the police.

If a student refuses to consent to a search they will be supervised while we contact parents to come in to complete the search. If a student absconds from a search then we will contact home and follow our behaviour policy, but the student will be at risk of being externally suspended and the police contacted.

After the search the parents will be contacted to let them know a search has taken place, the reason for the search and if anything illegal was found.

Following the completion of the search the search document is completed and recorded on the student record and CPOMS, the school safeguarding system.

Support

The school will make a referral to supporting outside agencies e.g. Catch22 after consultation with parents and the student concerned where all parties believe such support to be beneficial. Students who consider that they have a problem relating to drugs referred to in this policy and who wish to share their concerns with staff are encouraged to do so. Guidance on an appropriate course of action will be given and parents informed. Likewise, parents and carers who have concerns are encouraged to contact the school. Such action may help prevent serious personal harm which could arise if a problem is allowed to continue unchecked. Where involvement in drugs is first brought to the attention of the school by concerned parents, the school will take this into sympathetic consideration.

[Substance Use | The Children's Society \(childrenssociety.org.uk\)](#)

[Children and drugs | NSPCC](#)

Monitoring and Training

A record will be kept of all substance misuse related incidents and the action taken about these. This record will be discussed at the relevant Governors' Committee. In-service Training is provided for staff on drugs issues, and particularly for those who teach in the Social Religious and Wellbeing Department to enable them to keep up to date. Information sessions for parents will be organised from time to time via meetings, social media and through the newsletter.

Other Relevant Policies

Exclusion Policy

Child Protection Policy

Safeguarding Policy

Behaviour for Learning Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Approved by Local Governing Body	Summer 2023
Due for review	Summer 2024
SLT Member	Ms K Haynes