



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE POLICY 2025

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, vaping, 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 frames prepare them for life and work.

Smoking and e-cigarettes including Vape Alarm Incidents

At Warlingham we are committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and substance-free environment for all students, staff, and visitors. To this end, the use of tobacco, nicotine products, and vaping devices is strictly prohibited on school grounds.

Students who smoke, use vapes in school, or are found with such items on their possession, in the immediate vicinity of the school or in school uniform outside of school or on school activities (e.g. trips/visits) will be, following investigation sanctioned accordingly. This will likely result in an external suspension from school as these products are prohibited on site. Students must not bring cigarettes, tobacco, lighters, e-cigarettes/vapes or other equipment associated with smoking or vaping into school.

Any such items will be confiscated and disposed of, and parents informed. This will also following investigation be sanctioned accordingly. This will again likely result in an external suspension.

Vape Alarm Policy

In the event that a vape alarm is triggered within the school premises, the following protocol will be followed:

- **Investigation and Search**

Upon the activation of a vape alarm, a designated staff member will conduct an immediate investigation, which will include a search of the student(s) present in the area where the alarm was triggered. If it occurs in a cubicle the student (s) inside are deemed culpable for the alarm being triggered. This will be verified by CCTV.

- **No Vape Device Found**

If no tobacco or a vaping device or related materials are found on the student during the search, the school may, where reasonable suspicion exists, still take disciplinary action, including external suspension. This is in line with our commitment to uphold a zero-tolerance policy towards vaping on school grounds.

- **Suspension**

Regardless of whether tobacco or a vape device is found, any student deemed culpable of triggering a vape alarm may face an external suspension. This is due to the potential health risks associated with second-hand vapor and the serious nature of vaping in a school environment.

This policy is designed to ensure the safety and well-being of all students while maintaining a zero-tolerance stance on substances prohibited on school property.

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 sanctioned may face an external suspension 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 a sanction raised where appropriate.

Noxious Substances

Students are not allowed to bring aerosol cans or other noxious 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 tier own health and safety and that of other. Parents will be contacted should staff have concerns about misuse and a sanction raised where appropriate. 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. The parents of any student suspected of being involved in activities relating to illegal drugs and substances, or psychoactive substances, will be contacted and the police will be informed.

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 with parents informed. It is our policy to always discuss such matters with our Police Liaison Officer.

Search Powers

The school refers to the DfE guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022). Searching can play a critical role in ensuring that schools are safe environments for all pupils and staff. It is a vital measure to safeguard and promote staff and pupil welfare, and to maintain high standards of behaviour through which pupils can learn and thrive. Headteachers and staff they authorise have a statutory power to search a student or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the student may have a prohibited item. Staff allowed to carry out a search are the Senior leadership team and the safeguarding team. There will always be two adults present during a search, and there will always be one member of staff as the same gender as the student.

A metal detector wand will be used for health and safety reasons e.g. if there is a suspicion of a blade or vape. The members of staff carrying out the search should always seek the consent of the student being searched and record the details of what took place on the search form. Parents are informed that the search has taken place and the outcome of the search.

If the student does not consent to a search then the Headteacher, member of the SLT or Designated Safeguard Lead should be informed and the student kept supervised and kept away from other pupils. A decision will then be made to either inform parent immediately and/or the Police and a sanction raised where appropriate. This may include external suspension for refusal to undertake a search.

Support after a search

Irrespective of whether any items are found as the result of any search, the school will consider whether the pupil may be suffering or likely to suffer harm and whether any specific support is needed (due to the reasons for the search, the search itself, or the outcome of the search).

If this is the case, staff will follow the school's safeguarding policy and speak to the designated safeguarding lead (DSL). The DSL will consider whether pastoral support, an early help intervention or a referral to children's social care is appropriate.

Strip searches

The authorised member of staff's power to search outlined above does not enable them to conduct a strip search (removing more than the outer clothing) and strip searches on school premises shall only be carried out by police officers in accordance with the [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(PACE\) Code C](#).

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.

Support

The school will make a referral to supporting outside agencies e.g. CGL or Catch 22 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.

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. As well as the Scholl Safeguarding team. 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	Autumn 2025
Due for review	Autumn 2026
SLT Member	Mrs K Haynes