



Weald of Kent Grammar School

Drugs Policy – December 2019

Description of School

Weald of Kent is a selective nine-form entry 11-18 Grammar school. Its catchment area is Tonbridge, Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells and a large number of outlying villages. Much of London's drug supply enters the country through Kent and drugs are easily obtainable in both urban and rural areas. Taking the wider interpretation of drugs to include tobacco, alcohol and solvents, it is a concern for every school in the county.

Responsibility

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the Drugs Policy and its implementation, for liaison with the trustees, parents, and appropriate outside agencies. The Senior Assistant Headteacher is the designated Drug Co-ordinator, with general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. It is recognised, however, that drug prevention is a whole-school issue and, therefore, all staff (teaching and non-teaching) will be adequately supported. This includes INSET and induction sessions for new members of staff. Staff should be aware that their personal conduct can have a significant impact on the readiness of students to adopt responsible attitudes and behaviour in relation to drugs.

The Law

It is an offence under the misuse of Drugs Act 1971:

- to supply or offer to supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act.
- to be in possession of a controlled drug in contravention of the Act.
- for the occupier or management of any premises knowingly to permit the smoking of cannabis or the production, attempted production or supply, attempted supply of any controlled drug.

"The law permits a responsible person to take possession of a controlled substance in order to prevent someone else committing an offence provided that person follows one of two courses of action immediately:

1. You may destroy the drug you have seized.
2. You may hand the drug to an authorized person (police officer)".

Option 2 is recommended by the police. This decision must be taken by the Headteacher.

Aims and Objectives

We aim to take a **proactive** approach to drugs by informing and educating our students about the effects and risks of drug taking.

It is also necessary to have a clear and comprehensive **reactive** approach to drug management which is known and understood by all.

Drug Education Programme

Drugs education in the school is ongoing and delivered mainly through our PSHCE programme. Opportunities to widen and reinforce learning also occur in other parts of the curriculum. We want our students to reject drugs because they believe that is the right thing to do, not just because they have been told to say 'no'. The following educational aims are paramount:

- to enable students to make healthy informed choices.
- to provide accurate information about drugs and substances.

- to increase understanding about the implications and consequences of use and misuse.
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use.
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues. i.e. crime, sexual conduct, STIs.
- to seek to minimize the risks that users and potential users face.
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

Procedures for Drug Management

If a student discloses to a member of staff that she/he is taking drugs, the member of staff should seek to offer support but make it clear to the student that he or she can offer no guarantee of confidentiality given the seriousness of drug misuse.

Dealing with a drug misuse incident (on site)

- check safety of abuser and others.
- inform Senior Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher.
- participate in subsequent action as required.
- never ignore it!

Harmful or illegal drugs may be legally removed from a place or a person within the school's jurisdiction. The following steps should be taken in both cases:

- if possible remove in the presence of a witness.
- do not allow students to touch.
- do not investigate the substance.
- do not use a bare hand to remove (particularly LSD acid tabs & used syringes).
- record time, place and circumstance.
- record size, number and appearance.
- take the drug immediately to the Senior Assistant Headteacher or Headteacher (do not keep on your person or property).
- place the substance in a sealed container.
- ask a witness to countersign and date package.

Warning Signs

Early detection is extremely important and staff need to be vigilant. The presence of the following signs is certainly not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse, but the presence of several signs may point to a need for greater vigilance.

In individuals: Changes in attendance; decline in performance; tiredness; unusual mood swings; parental concerns; excessive spending of money; stealing; lack of interest in physical appearance; sores or rashes (nose and mouth); lack of appetite and heavy use of perfumes or sunglasses.

In groups: Absence on certain days; keeping distance from supervision points; being the subject of rumours about drug taking; talking to strangers; stealing in gangs; associations with older person (not part of peer group) and use of drug takers' slang.

Objects associated with drug misuse: Foil containers or wrappers; twists of paper; plastic bags; metal tins; discoloured spoons; straws; sugar lumps; syringes; cigarette papers and lighters; aerosol containers; stamps, stickers and transfers.

Discipline and Sanctions

Everyone in the school community is entitled to feel safe and protected. Misuse of drugs is a very serious matter and will be dealt with in accordance with our Positive Behaviour Policy.

Use of External Agencies

The school recognises the support available through outside agencies i.e. the Educational Safeguarding Team; health and social services; the local police. Contact numbers are to be found in appendix 2.

Details of local telephone help lines for students are displayed on student notice boards.

Media Involvement

If the Media contact you, refer all matters to the Headteacher.

APPENDICES

1. Drug Categories

Stimulants	<i>Amphetamine Ecstasy*</i> ; <i>Cocaine*</i> ; <i>Crack*</i> ; <i>Tobacco</i> ; <i>Caffeine</i> ; <i>Steroids</i> . <i>Methoxetamine</i>
Depressants	<i>Solvents</i> ; <i>Alcohol</i> ; <i>Tranquilizers</i>
Hallucinogens	<i>LSD*</i> ; <i>Ecstasy*</i> ; <i>Magic Mushrooms</i> ; <i>Cannabis</i> .
Opiates	<i>Heroin*</i> ; <i>Codeine</i> ; <i>Paracetamol</i> .

(Popular names shown in *italics*)

* indicates Class A drug

So called 'Legal Highs'

'Legal Highs' have recently been made illegal in the United Kingdom and are, in practice, psychoactive drugs that contain various chemical ingredients, some of which are illegal while others are not. They produce similar effects to illegal drugs like cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy.

Tobacco:

Smoking is the largest preventable cause of death in the U.K. and can be a 'gateway' to illegal drug use. At the Weald of Kent, we operate a 'No Smoking' Policy. (See policy document) Reported incidents, both within school and to and from school, are treated seriously in accordance with the Behaviour Management Policy.

Vaping / e-cigarettes

While less harmful to health than traditional cigarettes, these are still addictive and within school are treated the same as traditional cigarettes.

Volatile Substance Misuse

Volatile substances are easily accessible. They are not illegal, but it is an offence to supply them to be used for intoxication. In accordance with the Health and Safety Policy, such substances are stored safely.

Alcohol

This too, is easily accessible and generally socially acceptable. It can have dangerous effects, particularly if used in combination with other drugs, and often leads to risk taking behaviour. Consequently, reported incidents are treated seriously in accordance with the Behaviour Management Policy. The use of alcohol at school functions must be considered carefully within this context and approval sought from SLG.

Steroids:

The Weald of Kent is aware of the competitive nature of sport and the wish to succeed. Within our Physical Education programme, we support the efforts of sporting bodies to eliminate the use of steroids from sport, by giving the facts and warning of the risks.

2. Use of Visitors and External Agencies

Visiting speakers can fulfil a valuable role but their contribution must be properly planned as part of the overall Drugs Education Programme.

Before involving visitors in drug education or any aspect of health education, it is important to consider the following:

- does the visitor share the school's values and approach?
- is this visitor the most appropriate source for this input?
- is this contribution a part of the whole programme? (i.e. planned and incorporates preparation and follow up work.)
- is the visitor aware of the emotional and intellectual level of the students?

- has the visitor been vetted in regards to child protection?

It is advisable that visitors should not be left alone to work with students. The teacher needs to be a part of the experience so that he/she can provide appropriate follow up. SLG should always be aware of a visiting speaker's involvement before they are invited into school.

Ensure that the visitor is informed of:

- the aims of the session;
- why you want this involvement;
- what drugs education the students have previously received;
- what follow up will be provided and;
- group numbers, ages, time, venue and resources.

Contact numbers:

Kent Police	101
Tunbridge Wells Hospital, Pembury (A and E)	01892 823535
Talk to Frank	03001236600
Kenward Trust	01622 814187

3. Working with Parents

Young people are influenced by their parents, the media and their peers. Although schools can play a key role in educating students about the risks of drug taking, they cannot 'solve' the problem alone. Parents will look to the school for help and guidance. The school aims to reassure, listen and then negotiate a way forward.

Suggestions for parents:

- try to maintain a good, open relationship with your children;
- set clearly defined boundaries;
- listen to your child, give time not money;
- know where they are during holidays and;
- beware the 'street cred' front. (the child within is very different).

4. Resources

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools
 FRANK – www.talktofrank.com
 Kent Drug & Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT)
 Kent Trust website - www.kenttrustweb.org.uk

5. Equal Opportunities and Special Needs Issues

Where students are taking prescribed medication, they will need to distinguish between appropriate and inappropriate drugs.

Alcohol or substance misuse may be among a number of symptoms displayed by students with emotional and behavioural difficulties. The DfE recognises this, and the need for schools to take this into account in the identification of students who require statutory assessment for Special Educational Needs.

6. Incident Management

Upon a suspicion being raised	Safety of those involved is paramount Observe legal regulations Establish known facts
If suspicion leads to investigation:	Have a witness present

Use sensitivity
Take careful and accurate notes

If an investigation indicates a serious incident

Inform parents
Consider involvement of outside agencies (Police/Social Services)
Consultation with governors re decision

IF DRUG MISUSE HAS OCCURRED INVOLVE POLICE AND PARENTS

A sample should be sent to the hospital. The Secretary of State would expect the police to be informed when illegal drugs are found on a student or on school premises (although there is no statutory requirement to do so).

Media involvement:

1. If we are contacted by the media tell them they will get a response but do not make an immediate response and;
2. Contact the Communications Manager.

Reviewing, Monitoring and Evaluation

Whole staff training - annually
PSHE meetings - dates on School Calendar
Policy review

Authors:	Ken MacSporran	Date:	Dec 2019
Next Review Date:	Dec 2022	Link Governor/s:	Clive Bygrave Julia Wilson
Ratified:	<p style="text-align: center;">..... December 2019 FGB</p>		