



## Drugs Policy

### Mission Statement

WeST holds a deep-seated belief in education and lifelong learning. Effective collaboration, mutual support and professional challenge will underpin our quest to ensure that all of the children and adults we serve are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential and succeed in life.

Westcountry Schools' Trust adopted this policy in September 2020

Westcountry Schools' Trust will review this policy annually

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## **1. Definition of a drug**

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also, legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

## **2. Drugs on school premises**

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to travelling to and from school, whilst wearing school uniform, and includes other settings such as vehicles or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

### ***Prescription and non-prescription medicines***

Each school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

### ***Alcohol***

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, pupils, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

### ***Smoking/vaping***

School premises are a 'no smoking' site at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated, a suitable sanction issued and parents informed.

### ***Illegal drugs and 'psychoactive substances'***

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

### ***Solvents***

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and pupils will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy

## **3. Drugs education**

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through our curriculum, through our Personal Development programme in years 8-11, through assemblies and visiting speakers/theatre companies, and through our tutor programme, as well as through more targeted support for individuals, working with external agencies as appropriate.

#### 4. Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related drug paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or pupils using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or pupils using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities regarding drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance.

A member of the senior leadership team will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

If any pupil or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police for discussion. Illegal substances will be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored long-term. Parents will normally be informed (for a pupil) and other professionals such as the LA, Youth Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

A detailed record should be kept by the school.

Evidence of the use, possession, or supply (inc. intent to supply) of illegal drugs and psychoactive substances on the school premises (as defined in this policy) will almost certainly result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will be always be considered in accordance with DfE guidance on exclusions.

Where there is evidence of the use, possession or supply (inc. intent to supply) of non-illegal drugs, each case will be assessed individually, and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the pupil's involvement, up to and including permanent exclusion.

In line with legislation, the school reserves the right to search pupils if they have reason to believe that they are carrying unauthorised substances. Searches will be conducted in line with the DfE publication ['Searching, screening and confiscation – Advice for Headteachers, school staff and governing bodies \(January 2018\)'](#). Searches will be carried out by members of the Senior Leadership Team or other members of staff as delegated by the Headteacher. Any search will be carried out by at least two members of staff, one from the Senior Leadership Team and one from the appropriate pastoral team supporting the year group of the student in question. If a pupil refuses to be searched it may result in a fixed term exclusion.

## **5. Confidentiality**

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular, if a pupil chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to ensure the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

## **6. Support for pupils**

The welfare of pupils is paramount. Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress.

Interventions will be considered if the school feels a pupil is showing signs which indicate risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral.

The school will work closely with its Community Police Officers. If pupils are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Restorative justice, group work and education as well as links with home. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

## **7. Useful Organisations**

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Change UK** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 3907 8480

Email: [contact@alcoholchange.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholchange.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242

Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

**Children's Legal Centre** operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: [info@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:info@coramclc.org.uk)

## Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**Children's Rights Alliance for England** - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: [info@crae.org.uk](mailto:info@crae.org.uk)

Website: [www.crae.org.uk](http://www.crae.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drugwise** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550

Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugwise.org.uk](http://www.drugwise.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 123 6600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**The Harbour Centre (Plymouth)** leads and manages the integrated community drug and alcohol recovery services in Plymouth. The agency 'Harbour' is a provider partnership that includes Plymouth Community Healthcare CIC, Hamoaze House, Shekinah, and Broadreach with The Harbour Centre (Plymouth) as the lead agency.

Tel: 01752 434343

Website: <https://harbour.org.uk/>

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 963 2751

Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: <https://mentoruk.org.uk/>

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222

Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

## Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST)

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)** - A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Text: 07496 959930

Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [info@re-solv.org](mailto:info@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking

Helpline: 0300 123 1044

Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>