



WALTHAMSTOW HALL  
SEVENOAKS

## **DRUGS AND DRUG TESTING POLICY**

### **Rationale**

At Walthamstow Hall we are committed to ensuring a healthy, safe and secure learning environment for all pupils. The misuse of drugs poses a threat to our pupils' health, general welfare and ability to achieve their full academic and social potential. The Department for Education (DfE) defines a drug as:

*"A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave. This includes:*

- *all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and amendments)*
- *all legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates*
- *all over-the-counter drugs and prescription drugs"*

It is the policy of the School that all pupils should receive an effective and appropriate programme of drug education which is relevant to the age of the pupils and delivered with due regard to the moral ethos of the School and family values. We recognise the importance of education which enables young people to make healthy, informed choices.

This policy has been written following DfE and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Drug Advice for Schools (September 2012)

Related policies:

- Alcohol and Tobacco
- Discipline and Exclusions
- Behaviour Policy

### **Aims**

- To provide accurate information for pupils within a supportive educational framework.
- To encourage respect and tolerance for other people and an understanding of why some people take drugs.
- To encourage personal responsibility and self-esteem.
- To help pupils to develop the ability to make decisions about their own lifestyle and to provide the skills to respond to peer pressure.
- To understand the relationship between drug taking and a healthy lifestyle so that young people can make healthy, informed choices.
- To promote understanding of the links between the use of drugs and other related issues, such as sexual behaviour.
- To enable pupils to identify appropriate sources of personal support.
- To comply with the criminal law, and deter pupils from taking illegal drugs.

Drugs education, therefore, should:

- Provide accurate information.
- Correct misunderstandings.
- Build on knowledge and understanding.
- Explore attitudes and values towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Develop pupils' understanding of rules and laws.
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills.
- Develop pupils' self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Explore the risks and consequences of their own and others' actions relating to drugs.
- Be relevant to the needs of the pupils and the School community.
- Reflect the School's values and ethos.

At Walthamstow Hall we have a cross-curricular approach towards the delivery of drug education. For example, the use and abuse of medicinal and recreational drugs in Science lessons. However, it is through Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) that the major part of drug education is delivered. The PSHEE programme offers the opportunity to reinforce the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and give pupils the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills to make informed and responsible choices now and later in life without glamorising the subject by singling it out for separate treatment. The PSHEE lessons may be delivered by form tutors, School Medical Staff, the police liaison office, or other appropriate external speakers. Moral and ethical issues may be raised in the teaching of other subjects and should be treated with suitable sensitivity.

### **Support**

Pupils may from time to time seek advice from a member of staff regarding drug education related topics. It is hoped that pupils will feel able to talk to an adult and to know that they will receive help and support if at all possible. They can refer to the School Medical Staff for individual guidance. It is, however, important that the following guidelines are adhered to, as appropriate to the age of the child:

- The pupil should be made aware that some information cannot remain confidential and that the member of staff concerned will need to pass on certain types of information to other appropriate adults. At the same time, the pupil should be offered appropriate support.
- If requests for advice on drugs (outside the PSHEE programme) or a disclosure of drug taking is made, again the pupil should be able to feel supported.
- Pupils should be encouraged to discuss the matter with their parents and offered help to do so if needed. If a pupil refuses to do so, then the help of a suitably qualified health professional will be sought and advice taken as to the appropriate cause of action.
- It should be remembered that, although our primary concern must be for the welfare of the pupil concerned, we must also be careful to remember the rights and concerns of the parents and guardians.
- All conversations with pupils or parents should be carefully and factually recorded. Confidential information should not be circulated as a matter of course although key individuals such as the Head of Sixth Form, Head of Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4, may need to be kept informed.

## **Authorised Medicine**

The School should be informed of any medication (prescribed or OTC – ‘over the counter’) that is needed. This information will be passed on to the School Medical Staff who will be able to supervise the administration of any medication. No pupil should take any medication without the School’s knowledge. Parents of a pupil who may require regular medication or treatment should contact the School Medical Staff who will liaise with parents and pupils over its administration. Staff administering the medicines will receive appropriate training. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure that all medication left in School is kept up to date.

## **Misuse of drugs and drug testing**

### Investigation:

We will always investigate rumours about involvement in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil and, if appropriate, searching her personal possessions, subject to explicit permission granted by the Headmistress. We will inform parents as a matter of urgency and ask them to come into the School for further discussion.

### Testing:

If grounds for suspicion by the school are deemed to be sufficient, a urine, fingerprint or breathalyser test, supervised by qualified medical personnel, will be required straight away. If the result is positive for banned substances, a pupil will face the most serious sanctions and the police may be contacted for relevant support and advice.

### Sanctions:

The normal sanction for possession, supply or involvement with illegal drugs is expulsion. Any pupil found offering illegal drugs to another pupil will be expelled. The Police will be informed of any incident involving illegal drugs.

Parents and pupils should be under no doubt that any pupil who contravenes the Walthamstow Hall Policy regarding drugs and drug testing may be permanently excluded from School.

## **Role Responsibilities**

### **Headmistress**

The Headmistress is responsible for:

- Monitoring the implementation of the Drugs and Drug Testing Policy.
- Advising on drug-related incidents and making decisions on outcomes.

### **Deputy Heads and Pastoral Heads of Key Stages**

They are responsible for ensuring that:

- Accurate and detailed records are kept of any drug-related incident.
- The relevant agencies are contacted where applicable.
- The PSHEE programme is reviewed and adapted regularly to incorporate relevant drug education.
- Any drug-related incidents are referred to the Headmistress.

## Form Tutors

They should ensure that:

- They foster an environment which encourages pupils to develop the confidence to discuss any drug-related incidents.
- They are aware of any changes in behaviour of their pupils which could indicate drug misuse.
- They have the necessary knowledge and understanding to deliver relevant parts of the PSHEE programme relating to drugs education.

In addition, all staff should ensure that they understand the Drugs and Drug Testing Policy and the procedure to deal with any drug related incidents. They should also report any relevant changes in behaviour of pupils and report them immediately through the pastoral staff.

This is a Governing Body policy. It will be reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.

This policy has regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

***Walthamstow Hall policies are approved, ratified and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body.***

Reviewed Feb 2021  
Next Review Oct 2021

Signed: .....Date: .....

Mrs J Adams  
Chairman of the Governing Body