



Woodlane High School

achieving success in a nurturing environment

Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Education Policy (DATE)

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Introduction to the Curriculum Policy for Drug, Alcohol and Tobacco Education (DATE)

- 1.1 This policy describes our specific drug, alcohol and tobacco education provision and outlines our approaches to dealing with drug/substance-related incidents. It supports the PSCH policy and conforms to standards outlined in DCSF (2012) Drugs: Guidance for Schools, guidance in the Government's Drug Strategy (2010, 2017) and Keeping Children Safe in Education (2023) statutory Government guidance.
- 1.2 The policy forms part of a whole-school approach to promoting healthy living and lifestyle choices.
- 1.3 The policy supports the aims of the school mission statement, SEND policy, PSCH policy, Safeguarding and Child protection policy, Positive Mental Health Policy, Health & Safety policy and the whole-school approach to teaching and learning.

2. DATE at Woodlane – drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and the curriculum

- 2.1 Drug, alcohol and tobacco education (DATE) is an explicit, planned component of the school's PSCH curriculum. Aspects of DATE are also included in the statutory requirements for science. DATE provides a context for enabling pupils to:
 - increase their knowledge and understanding of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, including the use of vapes and e-cigarettes;
 - explore attitudes and develop skills for making healthy, informed choices.
- 2.2 DATE is supported by the values and ethos developed by the school community as outlined in our school mission statement and by the positive relationships encouraged within the school.
- 2.3 The development of a whole school approach to DATE is supported by the school's involvement in the National Healthy School Standard.
- 2.4 DATE includes learning about:
 - over-the-counter or prescription medicines, including anabolic steroids;
 - legal substances such as caffeine, alcohol and tobacco, vapes/e-cigarettes;
 - volatile substances e.g. glues, gases and aerosol propellants;

- illegally produced, owned or supplied substances such as those covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act, including cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, cocaine and crack cocaine.
- 2.5 Pupils gain knowledge of these through planned learning opportunities appropriate to their age and needs, within the context of making healthy and positive life choices.
- 2.6 There are opportunities for DATe to be taught through other areas of the curriculum, for example: English provides opportunities for pupils to explore relevant social issues through literature, develop communication skills, develop interpersonal skills; DT provides opportunities for pupils to: develop awareness of safety, hazards and risk, take responsibility for the consequences of their actions for themselves and others; PE provides opportunities for pupils to develop positive attitudes towards health, develop safety awareness etc.

3. Aims & Objectives

- 3.1 The aim of the DATe policy is to acknowledge and clarify the school's role in relation to DATe and drug prevention intervention. The policy provides information about procedures in response to any DAT-related incident and provides guidance to teachers, support staff and outside visitors on procedures to be followed. Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's Promoting Positive Behaviour policy.

4. Definition

- 4.1 Drugs are those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs (medicine) and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine and LSD.
- 4.2 We define the term drugs in this policy as: *substances that can be used to change our psychological and physical state and performance*. This includes all drugs, those that are legal and illegal, socially acceptable and socially unacceptable, recognising that attitudes vary from society to society. We live in a drug-using world, few of us do not use any drugs at all and it is a minority that use drugs problematically.
- 4.3 The school believes that the possession and use of drugs in school or during the school day is inappropriate. All the drugs covered in this policy are not permitted to be bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. These rules also apply to

adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines where appropriate.

5. DATe

- 5.1 The school provides a planned DATe programme as part of PSCHÉ that encourages knowledge and understanding, positive, responsible attitudes and mature personal and social skills. DATe will:
- include factual knowledge about DAT and their effects;
 - emphasise that the programme aims to provide pupils with the skills to make responsible life choices within the context of a society where DAT are easily available, enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practicing skills;
 - promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
 - provide accurate information about substances;
 - increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
 - encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use;
 - widen understanding about related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS;
 - seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
 - enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support;
 - provide pupils with information about support agencies available to them, such as Childline, Kooth, Frank and the Samaritans.
- 5.2 On the whole the PSCHÉ teacher deliver DATe lessons, but where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute and will be made aware of the school's DATe policy. Teachers have access to on-going support and training as part of their own professional development and teaching materials are reviewed, in consultation with Local Authority advice, for quality and relevance.
- 5.3 The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as community police, social services, the Local Authority, health and other agencies to deliver on its commitment to DATe.

6. Statutory Duty of School

- 6.1 The headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, liaising with the Governing Body, parents/carers, Local Authority and appropriate outside agencies. The headteacher as substance coordinator, will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy. The headteacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

7. Implementation and legal considerations – a DAT- related incident

- 7.1 The school has an ‘in loco parentis’ responsibility to individual pupils and the school community.
- 7.2 The school will consider if the young person(s) are at risk of significant harm and if there are any Child Protection issues. If there are, the advice of Social Care will be sought.
- 7.3 A search of a pupil can be considered if the member of staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil is in possession of a prohibited item, or if the pupil has agreed. Named staff have the power to search pupil’s bags, locker, outer clothing, pockets and other personal items or storage, (CM, TH, RM, SC, JJ) without consent, in line with: Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022). However, pupils will always be given the option to consent to a search first. Where there is no immediate danger, time will be provided for this request to be considered and consent can be given verbally. It is vital that all staff understand their rights and the rights of the pupil who is being searched.

If a search is deemed necessary, guidance regarding the steps before, during and after a search will be followed by the staff named above. Staff will never search a pupil in isolation and will at all times ensure that a culture of safe, proportionate and appropriate searching is maintained, which safeguards the welfare of all pupils and staff. A search should take place with the pupil present, unless this is likely/possible that it will cause serious harm.

Any additional search, *“involving the removal of more than outer clothing”* (defined as a strip search) can only be carried out by the police on the school premises. While the decision to undertake the strip search itself and its conduct are police matters, school staff retain a duty of care to the pupil involved and should advocate for pupil wellbeing at all times. An appropriate adult, (or preferably the child’s parent) should be present unless the child explicitly states that they waive this right. The process the police must follow during a strip search is outlined in: Searching, Screening and Confiscation, Advice for schools, July 2022.

After a search, all staff should record their actions and rationale for the decision, ensuring all relevant parties are informed. Regardless of whether an item is found, consideration should always be given to the impact that the process can have on the child, and what concerning factors led to the decision to search. The actions may be different for each case, but safeguarding should be the central theme of any further support.

- 7.4 Pupils may wish to disclose information in confidence. Staff should explain clearly that they cannot guarantee confidentiality.
- 7.5 Ideally, we would like to work with parent/carers as partners in handling substance-related issues. Parent/carers will be informed of a substance related incident at an early stage and as-of-right. Contact will ONLY be made through the headteacher or deputy head, staff should not take it upon themselves to make external contacts with parent/carers.
- 7.6 The police may be called to remove a suspected illicit substance or it can be destroyed. This is permitted under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and The Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001, whether the police are called or not. It is important to have a senior colleague present to act as a witness to the destruction of the substance. In the event of a young person contesting an accusation of possession or supply then they are legally entitled to seek redress through the courts.
- 7.7 There is no legal obligation to inform the police, but informal advice might be sought. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where it is suspected that substances are continuing to be sold on the premises, details regarding those involved, as well all possible information, will be passed to the Police Liaison Officer via the Local Authority Information & External Relations section.
- 7.8 If drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, solvents or paraphernalia are found on school premises, they will be removed and stored securely. The headteacher will take a decision as to whether the Director of Education or other appropriate authority needs to be informed.
- 7.9 Only in full consultation with the headteacher (and Local Authority) can staff dispose of the substance by, for example, placing in a bin, incinerating or flushing away. This prevents the continuation of the offence of possession by the young person. This is a legally permissible course of action and the police need not be informed. It is important that such an action is witnessed by another member of staff. It is also advisable that a report should be made and signed by both staff members.

- 7.10 The school plays close attention to the warning signs of substance misuse and will investigate accordingly. These can include, but are not exclusively:
- changes in attendance;
 - decline in performance in school work;
 - mood swings;
 - excessive spending or borrowing;
 - stealing;
 - tiredness;
 - no interest in physical appearance; • sores or rashes on the mouth or nose;
 - lack of appetite etc.

- 7.11 The school is vigilant of the indicators of possible misuse, and will always investigate fully. These include:
- foil containers;
 - metal tins;
 - pill boxes;
 - twists of paper;
 - straws;
 - sugar lumps;
 - syringes or needles;
 - cigarette papers;
 - spent matches;
 - plastic bags;
 - crisp packets or butane gas containers;
 - cardboard or other tubes;
 - stamps;
 - stickers or transfers;
 - lighters;
 - home rolled cigarettes;
 - paper folded to form an envelope.

8. Monitoring of Criminal exploitation of children – Drug dealing, including county lines

- 8.1 In line with government advice, Criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults: county lines (2023), the school will monitor and record any changes in a child or young person who they feel is likely to become victim of exploration, in line with the school's safeguarding and attendance policies.
- 8.2 The school is vigilant of the indicators of possible exploitation, and will always record any incidents fully. These include:

- persistently going missing from school or home and / or being found out-of-area;
- unexplained acquisition of money, clothes, or mobile phones;
- excessive receipt of texts / phone calls and/or having multiple handsets;
- relationships with controlling / older individuals or groups;
- leaving home / care without explanation;
- suspicion of physical assault / unexplained injuries;
- parental concerns;
- carrying weapons;
- significant decline in school results / performance;
- gang association or isolation from peers or social networks;
- self-harm or significant changes in emotional well-being.

9. Advice on the management of DAT related incidents

9.1 The procedures for an emergency apply when a pupil or others are at immediate risk of harm. In any incident involving DAT, the most urgent question is always whether medical help is needed. If it is, or if there is any doubt, do not hesitate to get such help. The school's first aid procedures should be clearly displayed and all staff should be aware of them.

9.2 Always act calmly and do not panic. While your primary responsibility is for any pupil(s) at immediate risk, you also need to ensure the well-being and safety of the other pupils and staff.

9.3 The following steps should be taken:

- assess the situation;
 - if you can, remove the cause of any immediate risk or harm,
 - if medical help is needed, or might be needed, summon a doctor or ambulance.

9.4 Before assistance arrives:

- if the person is conscious;
 - ask her or him what happened, and identify the substance used,
 - where it is practical, collect any substance and any vomit (or ensure these are not cleared away) for medical analysis,
 - do not induce vomiting,
 - keep the person under observation, warm and quiet.

- if the person is unconscious:
 - do not move the person if they have fallen, as a fall may have led to spinal or other serious injury, which may not be obvious,
 - ensure that the person can breathe and place in the recovery position,
 - do not move the person if they have fallen, as a fall may have led to spinal or other serious injury, which may not be obvious,
 - do not give anything by mouth,
 - do not attempt to make the person sit or stand,
 - do not leave the person unattended or in the charge of another pupil.

- 9.5 When medical help arrives pass on any medical information in the form of the child's Healthcare Plan and any vomit and drug samples. This could help treatment and may save a life.
- 9.6 The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil(s) involved, other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion may be warranted as a final sanction when all other reasonable steps have been taken.
- 9.7 The headteacher, as soon as is practical will take advice and guidance from the LA Information & External Relations section, press office and legal department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

10. Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

- 10.1 The Governing Body will review this policy bi-annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.