

# DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY

This policy is applicable to all pupils, staff and parents of The Wellington Academy.

## DOCUMENT CONTROL

<b>Responsible position:</b>	<b>Approved by:</b>
Deputy Head	Headteacher
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10.0	October 2022 LGB Ratification: December 2022
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1 year	October 2023

## RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

## REVISION RECORD

Date	Version	Revision Description
Sept 2009	1.0	Written in line with current legislation and policies
June 2013	2.0	Amended with updated legislation combining Drug Incident with Drugs, Alcohol & Tobacco Policy
August 2014	3.0	Amended for MAT Purposes
December 2014	4.0	Amended for Boarding purposes
May 2015	4.0	Amended in line with NMS 1/4/15
July 2016	5.0	Reviewed and updated to include e-cigarettes and other substances
Sept 2018	6.0	Reviewed and updated
Sept 2019	7.0	Reviewed and updated
October 2020	8.0	Amended for MAT Purposes
September 2021	9.0	Reviewed and updated
October 2022	10.0	Reviewed and updated

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Wellington Academy under Ascend Learning Trust aims to equip all students and staff with the knowledge, understanding and skills that enable them to make the sort of choices that lead to a healthy lifestyle.

One in three 14 to 16-year olds will experiment with illegal substances. The age of first experimentation with illegal drugs is reducing; whereas ten years ago, it was 14 and 15 year olds experimenting, today many 12 and 13-year-old children are experimenting with illegal substances. As many as 25% of 14 – 16year olds may be regular smokers and drinking habits of young people are of concern. Substance misuse presents an ever-increasing challenge to young people today.

This Trust is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs or other substances.

The Trust does not allow smoking/vaping (including e-cigarettes) or non-medicinal drugs on any Trust premises.

## **2. PURPOSE**

- To develop a whole Trust approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum, both formal and informal
- To provide accurate information about a range of drugs, including medicines, alcohol, vapes and tobacco
- To explore attitudes and develop skills in making decisions about drugs
- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the Trust community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse
- To establish an atmosphere/environment/situation in which the Trust and its Academies are free from the misuse of any drugs
- To clarify appropriate procedures in the management of drug related incidents
- To respond to any individual within the Trust community in need of support
- To enable pupils to identify sources of confidential advice and support, as Trust staff are unable to guarantee absolute confidentiality in serious cases of drug misuse

## **3. STAFF**

- The Trust does not allow any member of staff who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs to enter Trust premises or work on its behalf.
- Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs during working hours is a disciplinary offence, which might be considered gross misconduct.
- Disciplinary action will be taken against any Trust staff found in possession of any illegal drug or illicit substance, misuse of drugs on Trust premises or supplying/dealing drugs on Trust premises or whilst on any Trust or Academy trip or visit.

#### 4. GUIDELINES

Drug education in the Trust aims to enable all our pupils to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes about drug use and developing and practising their decision-making skills.

- The programme will be carried out in Tutor time, lessons and assemblies and will be based on national guidelines provided by the DfE and focuses on the development of self-esteem and decision making.
- All students (at all Key Stages) follow an integrated drug education programme which is responsive to their needs and relevant to their age, experience and maturity
- Teaching is based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the needs of our students. It is delivered by a team of staff with support from external agencies
- All staff will have access to relevant training, resources and support to help them deliver effective drug education and respond to situations with consistency and sensitivity, taking account of religious, social and cultural issues. Outside agencies such as the police, school nurse and other professionals are used to complement the programme, following the guidelines for working with outside agencies
- The programme is evaluated on a regular basis through student feedback and staff discussions
- There is a procedure for the management of drug-related incidents, agreed by staff and governors, of which all parents and pupils will be made aware
- The Trust shares responsibility for the education of students with parents, who are kept informed and involved through newsletters, awareness raising evenings and individual discussions when appropriate
- The Trust has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety

#### 5. STUDENT SEARCHES

- The Headteacher (or members of SLT in the absence of the Headteacher) has a statutory power to search students and their possessions with their consent, or without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item including, but not limited to: illegal drugs or solvents, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, vapes or e-cigarettes.
- At least two adults (one of which will be the same gender as the student) will oversee any bag or clothing searches for any illegal or banned substances and paraphernalia.
- If a student refuses to consent to the search, then the police may be called to assist.
- Parents will be duly informed.
- For Further guidance please refer to: [Searching, screening and confiscation at school - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation-at-school)

#### 6. GENERAL SEARCHES

- The Academy will employ the services of a specialist drug search dog team three times a year to conduct random checks of classrooms, communal areas and student's possessions (coats/bags etc.)
- These visits will be carried out by a licenced company accompanied by a senior member of staff at all times.

- Parents will be notified on the day of the visit and students will be encouraged to engage with the dog and its handler and will have the opportunity to ask questions during their Tutor time and assemblies.
- Any student found to be in possession of a banned substance will be subject to searches and sanctions as set out within this policy.

## **7. DRUGS/SUBSTANCE MISUSE**

- A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally, or mentally. This includes illegal substances and legal substances such as: alcohol cigarettes, vapes and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.
- The possession or use of any drug, other than over the counter medicines or medically prescribed drugs is totally banned and the most severe attitude will be taken to any departure from this rule.
- Students are not permitted to bring smoking materials including matches, lighters, and e-cigarettes onto Trust premises. Any materials found will be confiscated and parents informed.
- Students are not permitted to bring alcohol or alcoholic beverages onto Trust premises for personal use. Any materials found will be confiscated and parents informed.
- Students are not permitted to arrive to the Academy under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Parents/Carers will be contacted immediately; the student will not be permitted in lessons and we may ask that you collect your child on medical grounds.
- No illegal drugs or 'sniffable' solvent products are allowed to be brought on to or used on any Trust premises at any time.
- Use or supply of any illegal or banned substances on Trust premises will be regarded with the utmost seriousness.
- The Trust will decide when and if to inform the Police (in accordance with Police guidelines).
- A record of all drug related incidents will be kept by each Academy and reported to the Headteacher
- Illegal drugs and banned substances, including 'Legal Highs' are not permitted on the premises, including the Boarding House.
- The Academy staff work closely with the local police officers, it may be necessary from time to time, for the police to undertake Ion Tracking or the use of sniffer dogs to ascertain if an illegal substance has been used.

## **8. ALCOHOL IN BOARDING**

Alcohol is not allowed in the Boarding House under any circumstances, regardless of age. Any incident involving alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with our Sanctions Policy.

Students should not return to the Boarding House under the influence of alcohol under any circumstances. Should any students become involved with the purchase of alcohol for students who are under-age, this matter will be dealt with very firmly, and may involve consultation with the Police. This may lead to a permanent removal of a boarding place.

### **8.1 ALCOHOL ON ACADEMY TRIPS**

Acknowledging the variance in law in different countries concerning the permitted age for consumption of alcohol, the Trust nonetheless will not permit any form of alcoholic drinking by any pupil on an Academy trip. Therefore, no students may purchase, have in their possession, or consume, any form of alcohol.

On overseas exchanges, or on other trips where pupils are staying in a family and are not under the supervision of Academy staff, students must follow guidance given by their parents and, if this is more restrictive, by their host 'parents'

## **9. SMOKING IN BOARDING**

Whilst acknowledging that some cultures have a more tolerant attitude to smoking than here in the UK, The Wellington Academy Boarding House, does not condone smoking by any student. The site is a no smoking site and should be treated as such.

Pupils who are found to be smoking who are under-age will be dealt with in accordance with our Rewards and Sanctions policy, parents will be contacted and informed. Support can be put into place via the Academy Nurse, to support pupils who wish to stop smoking.

### **9.1 SMOKING ON ACADEMY TRIPS**

Acknowledging the absence of legal constraints on smoking by 16year olds and over, the Trust nonetheless will not condone smoking by any student on an Academy trip. Smoking is illegal for those under 16 and strongly discouraged for older pupils.

### **9.2 SMOKING IN UNIFORM**

When in our uniform, students are representing our Academy, therefore we will issue sanctions to students seen smoking before or after school in our uniform, even if that is not on school site.

## **10. SANCTIONS**

Any breach of these guidelines will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Each case will be assessed individually; the Trust recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents and careful consideration will be given to the implications of any action taken. Different levels of sanctions will be used according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.

In addition, students found to be breaching these guidelines whilst on Academy trips may be:

- sent home immediately at their parent's expense
- banned from all future academy trips

## **11. ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR PUPILS**

Information about local drugs and support services will be provided for students and parents. Trust staff are unable to give individual advice to pupils.

## **12. DISSEMINATION**

This policy will be uploaded to the websites of the Trust and Academies. Copies will be made available to parents on request. This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.