



Drug and Alcohol Policy

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

Next review: Autumn 2025

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Introduction

Weston Green School is committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment, in which physical and mental well-being, good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the safety and well-being of the whole school community. The school recognises its responsibility to teach pupils about drugs and alcohol and associated dangers at an appropriate level.

Definition

The term 'drug', throughout this policy, includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

Aims

We believe that the main aim of drugs education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding) and we have prioritised to address the following:

- To promote self-esteem and confidence
- To equip pupils with the knowledge they need in order to make appropriate and informed choices.
- For pupils to learn that all medicines are drugs, but that not all drugs are medicines
- To raise awareness of prescription medicines as well as other legal substances (e.g. tobacco / alcohol) and to have some understanding of their effect
- To minimise the harm from drugs to pupils

Curriculum

Our programme of learning, incorporated within the PSHE curriculum, enables pupils to develop strategies to resist peer pressure and make appropriate decisions in relation to the use (and misuse) of drugs, alcohol and tobacco in order to keep themselves safe and healthy.

The provision of a supportive environment, where pupils feel able to engage in open discussion, ask questions and feel confident about asking for help if necessary, is central to the ethos of Weston Green School as well as to successful learning in all areas of PSHE education.

This policy applies to School premises, day trips, and residential visits.

Drug and alcohol programme of study

This programme of learning runs across KS1 and KS2, comprising three sessions in each key stage as follows:

Key Stage 1

- Medicines and People Who Help Us
- Keeping Safe with medicines and household substances
- Making healthy informed choices
- Following rule safety

Lower Key Stage 2

- The effects of alcohol and tobacco

Upper Key Stage 2

- Legal and Illegal Drugs
- Preventing Early Use

The programme gives pupils information about drugs including medicines – in KS1 learning is limited to this and how to keep themselves safe and healthy.

In LKS2 pupils begin to learn about smoking and alcohol, with appropriate discussion and the opportunity for pupils to ask questions. In UKS2, as pupils prepare for the transition to senior school, they are introduced to illegal drugs and the differences between these and legal drugs. They also build on their learning to develop strategies to keep themselves safe and to resist pressure from others.

Curriculum Delivery

Teaching about drugs is provided as part of the PSHE curriculum across the whole school. This programme is relevant to the pupil's experience and needs and is flexible to help the pupils develop a positive attitude and talk openly and honestly.

In order to effectively cover all aspects of this programme, a wide range of teaching and learning strategies are used and the teachers will use their discretion to apply a variety of approaches to suit their pupils such as, Circle Time, paired work, small group and whole class discussions. The use of drama and role play, freeze-frames, thought-tracking, use of puppets and stories may be used.

Monitoring, Evaluating and Review

This policy, the teaching and learning, including the personal development of the pupils, will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed by SLT, the PSHE Head and the class teachers by ensuring that the whole school drugs and alcohol objectives have been met, standards of teaching are appropriate to the ages of the children being taught and adequate resources are available and being used.

Alcohol and tobacco on school premises

Weston Green School is a public place; smoking is, therefore, illegal on site for everyone, including staff, parents and visitors.

We will offer wine to parents and guardians at certain formal events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited.

It is highly unlikely given the age of the pupils at Weston Green School that there will be drug or alcohol related incidents; however, should one occur the Headteacher and Deputy Head will be responsible for coordinating the management of any incident, offering sources of support and, where necessary, liaising with outside agencies.

Parents who misuse drugs and/or alcohol

The school recognises that some of its pupils may have a parent whose drug use (legal and/or illegal) is problematic. The child's welfare in this is paramount and the school will act to support them in a variety of ways, both practically and emotionally. Key staff involved in such support will have received guidance and training in this area.

If a member of staff suspects that a parent collecting their child from school and intending to drive is intoxicated, advice given by the police will be followed – in this situation staff will make every possible effort to help the parent think of alternative and safer ways of getting home. This might include walking home, getting somebody else to collect them or calling a taxi.

If the parent becomes aggressive and insists on driving, on no account should staff put their own safety or security at risk. Staff should note down details of the car and phone the police with this information as soon as possible.

Staff should also report the incident to the DSL (Designated Safeguarding Lead) as soon as possible so that the child's other parent or carer can be notified.

Other relevant policies:

- Safeguarding policy
- PSHE policy

Resources

The resources that support this area of the curriculum will be updated regularly, be relevant to the pupils and presented in a way that is consistent with the aims of PSHE and Citizenship. The resources and teaching sequences used at Weston Green School can be found [here](#).