

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY (PUPILS)

Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the term 'drugs' is defined as any substance taken to change the way a person feels, thinks or behaves. This includes:

- Controlled drugs.
- Alcohol.
- Prescription and over-the-counter medicines.
- Tobacco products.
- Nicotine pouches (including snus).
- E-cigarettes, vapes and vaping materials.
- Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS), including substances formerly referred to as "legal highs".
- Nitrous oxide and other psychoactive substances.
- Any other substance used with the intention of intoxication or impairment.

The School seeks to prevent the misuse of drugs and alcohol and to support those affected by substance misuse whilst maintaining a safe environment for all members of the school community.

In its response to drug misuse and in its educational provision, the School has regard to current Department for Education guidance, including Drugs: Advice for Schools (DfE, 2012), Searching, Screening and Confiscation (DfE, 2023), Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE 2026), and other relevant safeguarding and behaviour guidance.

Aims

The School aims to:

- Promote the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils.
- Provide accurate, age-appropriate education about drugs, alcohol and vaping.
- Enable pupils to make informed and responsible decisions.
- Develop resilience and the skills needed to resist peer pressure.
- Support pupils who may be affected by substance misuse.
- Ensure appropriate safeguarding measures are implemented where concerns arise.
- Maintain a safe, orderly and productive learning environment.

Drug, alcohol and vaping education is delivered through the Wellbeing curriculum, PSHE, Science and other relevant areas of the curriculum. Educational provision includes information about:

- Physical and mental health effects.
- Addiction and dependency.
- Legal consequences.
- Risk-taking behaviour.
- Online influences and misinformation.
- Vaping and nicotine addiction.
- Sources of support and advice.

Expectations of Pupils

Pupils must not possess, use, consume, supply, distribute, give away, sell or facilitate access to drugs, alcohol or prohibited substances whilst:

- On School premises.
- Travelling to or from School.
- Wearing School uniform.
- Participating in School activities.
- Attending educational visits or residential trips.
- Participating in sporting fixtures or exchanges.
- Representing the School in any capacity.
- Engaging in online activity connected with the School where such conduct may impact the welfare, safety or reputation of members of the School community.

Pupils must not possess or use tobacco products, nicotine pouches (including snus), e-cigarettes, vapes or vaping materials whilst associated with the School.

The School recognises the increasing prevalence of vaping amongst young people. Vapes, e-cigarettes and associated paraphernalia are prohibited and may be confiscated and disposed of in accordance with School procedures and Department for Education guidance.

Seeking Help

The School encourages pupils, parents and carers to seek help at an early stage.

Where a pupil, parent or another pupil acting on their behalf seeks help regarding a drug or alcohol-related concern before a disciplinary matter has arisen, the School will ordinarily respond through support, education and safeguarding measures rather than disciplinary sanctions.

Any information disclosed will be treated sensitively and confidentially. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where safeguarding concerns arise. Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis to protect the welfare of the pupil or others.

Safeguarding

Drug and alcohol misuse may constitute a safeguarding concern.

The School will consider whether any incident indicates wider vulnerabilities, including:

- Child criminal exploitation.
- County lines involvement.
- Grooming or coercion.
- Neglect.
- Mental health difficulties.
- Peer-on-peer abuse.
- Other welfare concerns.

Any such concerns will be referred to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and managed in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy and current safeguarding guidance.

Disciplinary Consequences

The possession, use, supply or distribution of drugs, alcohol or other prohibited substances is regarded as a serious breach of School rules.

Where a pupil is found:

- Dealing, supplying or giving away controlled drugs or Novel Psychoactive Substances; or
- Possessing such substances with intent to supply,

this will normally result in permanent exclusion, subject to a full investigation and consideration of all relevant circumstances.

Where a pupil is found:

- Using controlled drugs;
- In possession of controlled drugs;
- Under the influence of controlled drugs;
- Providing controlled drugs to others;
- In possession of alcohol;
- Under the influence of alcohol;
- Providing alcohol to others;

whilst at School or otherwise associated with the School, this will normally result in permanent exclusion, subject to a full investigation and consideration of all relevant circumstances.

The School reserves the right to impose any sanction considered reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances of the case.

Investigations, Searches and Confiscation

The School will thoroughly investigate suspicions of drug or alcohol misuse. Where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, searches may be conducted in accordance with the Behaviour Management Policy and current Department for Education guidance.

Any prohibited items discovered may be confiscated. Where alcohol, drugs, medicines, tobacco products, nicotine pouches, e-cigarettes, vapes or vaping materials are found, the items may be retained, disposed of or handed to the police as appropriate. All searches, confiscations and investigations will be conducted with due regard to safeguarding, dignity, privacy and proportionality.

Parents will normally be informed of any significant incident. However, where there are safeguarding concerns, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will determine whether informing parents may place a pupil at risk of harm and will act accordingly.

Controlled Drugs Procedure

In the event that suspected controlled drugs are discovered:

1. A second adult witness must be present.
2. The substance should be secured in a sealed container or bag.
3. The date, time, location and names of witnesses should be recorded.

4. The substance should be stored securely with restricted access.
5. The police should be notified as soon as reasonably practicable.
6. Full details of the incident should be recorded, including any police reference number.
7. Parents should normally be informed unless doing so would place the pupil at risk of harm.
8. The Designated Safeguarding Lead should assess and record any safeguarding concerns.
9. Appropriate disciplinary and/or pastoral support measures should be implemented.

Record Keeping

The School will maintain appropriate records of:

- Concerns.
- Disclosures.
- Searches.
- Confiscations.
- Investigations.
- Safeguarding referrals.
- Outcomes and sanctions.
- Support provided to pupils.

Records will be maintained in accordance with the School's data protection, safeguarding and behaviour procedures.

Staff Guidance

If a pupil asks for help regarding drugs or alcohol

Staff should:

- Explain the limits of confidentiality.
- Listen carefully and non-judgementally.
- Reassure the pupil that support is available.
- Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Head promptly.
- Consider appropriate referrals.

Possible support routes may include:

- School pastoral staff
- School counsellor
- GP
- Young people's drug and alcohol services
- FRANK

If a parent or pupil raises concerns about another pupil

Staff should:

- Record the concern.
- Notify the Designated Safeguarding Lead and/or Head immediately.
- Maintain appropriate confidentiality.

- Follow safeguarding procedures.

If a pupil is discovered using, possessing or supplying drugs or alcohol

Staff should:

- Prioritise safety.
- Confiscate substances where appropriate.
- Ensure another member of staff is present.
- Notify the Head and Designated Safeguarding Lead immediately.
- Isolate the pupil if necessary.
- Record all actions taken.
- Follow the procedures outlined in this policy.

Useful Organisations

FRANK: www.talktofrank.com (0300 123 6600)

WithYou: www.wearewithyou.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK: www.alcoholchange.org.uk

YoungMinds: www.youngminds.org.uk

NSPCC: www.nspcc.org.uk

NHS: www.nhs.uk

Please also refer to the following policies:

Safeguarding Policy - website	Wellbeing Policy - website
Behaviour Management Policy - website	

Monitoring and Evaluation of this policy

The school monitors and evaluates the effectiveness of this Drugs and Alcohol Policy and related procedures through the following activities:

- Review of incidents
- Senior Leadership Team discussion
- Annual Board of Directors scrutiny
- Review of concerns and complaints

DLP
September 2026

Next Review:
September 2027