



Drugs & Alcohol Policy

September 2024



Contents

- Policy statement
- Definition of 'drugs' for the benefit of this policy
- Aims of policy
- Context
- Management of drugs related incidents
- Drugs on premises
- Alcohol and tobacco
- Drugs and school visits
- Emergency procedures
- Confidentiality and advice
- Other related documents
- Useful contacts
- Relevant legislation

Policy Statement

The policy document is aimed at all staff, students, parents/carers, directors and agencies working with the company, and has been drawn up in consultation with all relevant parties.

The company will not tolerate the misuse of drugs within its grounds and by students representing the company out of school hours or on any school organised trips or visits.

This applies to also to any adults or persons who may come onto the company sites and may be intoxicated and/or in possession of illegal drugs. At World Alternative Education Limited we recognise that some of our students and parents need a variety of medicines and appropriate arrangements are made to enable the correct distribution of these. *Please refer to the students with medical needs policy.*

World Alternative Education Limited drugs policy is part of our overall approach to health and well being. We aim to ensure that students recognise the importance of what they eat and drink and the effect this can have. Self respect and a healthy lifestyle are all part of an approach which will enable our students to make the right choices for themselves and their families now and in the future.

It is important to note that the company see inappropriate drug use by students as something to be challenged and changes in behaviour sought through support and counselling wherever possible. It is likely however, that any student found to have been distributing and/or using illegal drugs, whether or not in return for payment, will be excluded from the program and the host school contacted.

Definition of 'Drugs' for the Benefit of this Policy

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally, or mentally.

If includes:

1. All illegal drugs i.e. those drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Headquarters: Moor House Adventure Centre; Rainton Gate, West Rainton, Houghton le Spring, Tyne & Wear. DH4 6QY.

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2. All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, which have a particular significance in relation to students, volatile substances (those giving off gas or vapour that can be inhaled) GHB (dangerous sedative and aesthetic affects), e cigarettes, MCAT (methodone (sometimes called meow meow) is a powerful stimulant) Ketamine and alkyl nitrates (poppers)
3. All over the counter and prescribed drugs



Aims of the Policy

World Alternative Education Limited believes that as part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to:

1. Increase students knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about drugs.
2. Develop students personal and social skills to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy
3. Enable students to explore their own and other peoples attitude toward drugs, drug use and drug users
4. Ensure the safety of staff and students when on school site or when on any trip or visit, residential or otherwise
5. Develop students understanding of rules and laws
6. Raise students self esteem and self awareness
7. Explore risks and consequences of their own and others actions relating to drugs
8. To enhance young peoples' decision make skills more generally, using drug education as a vehicle
9. To minimise the number of young people who ever engage in drug misuse
10. To delay the age of onset of first use for those who do experiment at any time
11. To minimise the proportion of users who adopt particularly dangerous forms or misuse
12. To persuade any who are experimenting with or misusing drugs to stop, engaging with relevant agencies
13. To enable any students that are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to seek help
14. Parents/carers should be aware that any concerns or information gathered that their child is using, supplying or bringing any form of illegal substance or any form of paraphernalia onto the school premises/site, will be shared with the police in the interest of protecting not only the student involved, but every member of the company community.

Context

Drug education is provided through PDE and Citizenship curriculum areas:

1. It should aim to involve parents and encourage them to take an interest
2. It should be delivered in the context of the company as part of the community
3. It should take account of age, sex, ethnic/cultural/social background of the students at whom it is targeted
4. It should provide factual and accurate information backed up with consistent advice
5. It should aim to teach the students the necessary personal and social skills described in the aim section above

Management of Drugs Related Incidents on Company Premises

The company believes that as part of the care and welfare its students it has a duty to:

1. Try to maintain a health promoting drug free environment
2. Try to minimise the effects of drugs and alcohol on students learning
3. Act on suspected drug or alcohol use
4. Provide a co-ordinated and consistent response to any drug or alcohol related incidents
5. Use suitable sanctions where appropriate
6. Provide support to any student with problems

Drug Related Incidents May Involve

1. Possession of know/unknown substance(s)

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2. Suspected/evidence of supplying substance(s)
3. Use of drugs at school
4. Use of a drug outside of school which is affecting learning/progress
5. Discovery of drugs in a place on the school premises
6. Retrieval of drugs from such a place
7. Suspicion of drug abuse (where information may have come from other students, parents, the police or other sources)
8. Self referral by student

Each case should be treated in accordance with the principles above and the procedures below. A drug incident record should be recorded.

Drugs on Company Premises

World Alternative Education Limited makes it clear that drug use on the school premises is not acceptable, except in the case of prescribed medication (in line with the *students with medical needs policy*) which is known to all relevant members of staff. In such cases, parents MUST ensure that they have met with pastoral managers and completed the IHCP (individual health care plan).

Incidents would include:

1. Smoking on the premises
2. Alcohol on the site during the school day
3. Adults or student on the premises who are evidently under the influence of alcohol or substances which impair their judgement
4. Adults or students who are in known possession of alcohol or illegal substances around the premises

Where staff suspect any one of the incidents may have occurred, they should inform The Director who will make a judgment as to whether they should:

1. Approach the individual
2. Call the police
3. Make arrangements to isolate the individual to ensure the safety of all other students

Illegal drugs – these should be confiscated by the Director (If he is on site) in the presence of another adult. The drugs should be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date and time they were found or confiscated. The police should be notified.

All drug related incidents should be referred immediately to the Director.

Drug related incidents may result in:

- a) Exclusion of the student
- b) Confiscation where possible of the substance following the search and seizure procedure set out by the local authority and outlined in the attendance, achievement and behaviour policy
- c) Where there are safeguarding concerns these should be referred to The Director and Host School
- d) A meeting with the student, parents, staff and any relevant agencies must occur

The meeting should provide an opportunity to:

1. Exchange information and opinion on the nature of the student's involvement with drugs
2. To hear the student's view

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3. To agree a detailed plan covering support from the company and outside agencies as well as monitoring review. Where appropriate a PSP (pupil support plan) may be established following any drug related incident in school



NB – *the person seizing the substances should wear rubber gloves and should wash their hands thoroughly after the incident*

Alcohol Use or Possession by Students

1. Items will be confiscated under the company confiscation policy (*please refer to the achievement behaviour and attendance policy*). Parents will be informed and the items will be disposed of or destroyed.

Drugs on Visits and Trips

Where drugs or drug related paraphernalia are discovered on a trip, procedures will generally follow those for drugs found on the premises.

The company reserve the right to require a parent/carer to attend and collect the student immediately or as soon after as practically possible.

In the event of:

1. Suspicion of a student under the influence of drugs/alcohol/solvents
2. Student in possession of drugs/alcohol/solvents
3. Student discloses that they are misusing drugs/alcohol/solvents
4. Student discloses that parents or friends are misusing or selling drugs/alcohol/solvents
5. Company becomes aware of the availability of drugs/alcohol/solvents in the school vicinity
6. Student or parent asks for advice on illegal drug misuse

Teacher/visits leaders should contact the host school immediately who will decide on appropriate action in line with the *achievement, behaviour and attendance policy*.

All disclosures and other incidents should be fully documented and passed to The Director as soon as possible. Staff must ensure that on no account should they promise confidentiality.

Emergency Procedures – Advice to Staff

In the event of a student appearing to suffer from drug/alcohol/solvent misuse, then staff should follow these procedures:

1. Do not panic – YOU CAN HELP
2. If they are semi conscious or in a coma, make sure the student is lying in the recovery position on their side. An ambulance must be called immediately
3. If they are hyperactive, try to find a calm, dark area where they can sit with someone to reassure them
4. Keep any containers or pills that are at the scene to show the doctor or paramedic. Ask friends if present, if they know what and how much the student may have taken
5. Stay with the student until assistance arrives

Confidentiality and Advice

Students should be made aware that information cannot be confidential i.e. where the student is involved in the misuse of drugs. However, they should be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

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Other Related Documents

Company Achievement, Behaviour and Attendance policy

Child protection policy

Anti bullying policy

Drug – guidance for schools (DCSF)

Local authority guidelines

Healthy schools information

Useful Contacts

www.drugscope.org.uk

www.drugeducation.org.uk

www.nc.uk.net

www.drugs.gov.uk

www.wrecked.co.uk

www.talktofrank.com

Relevant Legislation

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Children and Young Person (protection from tobacco) Act 1991

Supporting Students with Medical Needs (gov.co.uk2014)

Keeping Children Safe in Education 2014

Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or in light of any changes in legislation and/or guidance.

This policy document will be reviewed in September 2025.

Signed by:

Martin Coy (General Manager)

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