

# WYVERN COLLEGE POLICY NUMBER 27 DRUGS POLICY

## **Purpose and rationale**

The College actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the College takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. Wyvern College staff are aware of their statutory safeguarding responsibilities and the important role education professionals play in ensuring the safety, security and well-being of all young people.

The responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the Wyvern College community. The College acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

The College aims to ensure that:

- Appropriate action is taken in a timely manner to safeguard and promote children's welfare;
- All staff are aware of their statutory responsibilities with respect to safeguarding;
- All staff are properly trained in recognising and reporting safeguarding issues.

## **Legislation and statutory guidance**

This policy is informed by the following legislation and guidance:

- Section 175 of the Education Act 2002, which places a duty on schools and local authorities to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils;
- The Children Act 1989 (and 2004 amendment), which provides a framework for the care and protection of children;
- Keeping Children Safe in Education guidance (updated September 2020);
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012)
- <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/hias/drug-and-alcohol/supporting-young-people.htm>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

## **Principles and content**

This policy has been written in consultation with Trustees and is available on the College website. Trustees will ensure the policy is reviewed every two years and this policy will provide staff with the framework to promote and safeguard the wellbeing of children. This policy will ensure consistent good practice across the College and demonstrate our ongoing commitment to safeguarding children.

## **Education and Prevention**

The College believes that knowledge is powerful and we therefore ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through the RPS and Science curriculum, tutor time activities and pastoral assemblies. Further information is available for all students through the Designated Safeguarding Leads and individual students may be referred to external agencies such as Catch 22 or No Limits for additional advice and support.

### **Definition of a Drug**

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For the purpose of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to both illegal substances and legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. Drugs paraphernalia may include items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters, 'vapes' and pipes.

### **Drugs on the College Premises**

The legal definition of the College premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the College at the time e.g. premises of a College trip or visit.

### **Medicines**

The College has a clear procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Medical Conditions Policy.

### **Alcohol**

No alcohol may be brought on to the College premises or consumed during the course of the College day. If any adult, student, parent or visitor is found to be under the effects of alcohol, they will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole College. Parents will be asked to immediately collect their children from the College and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

### **Smoking**

The College premises are a no-smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to college cigarettes, smoking materials including matches and lighters and 'vapes' or electronic cigarettes (e-cigs). In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on the College premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Any student found smoking will be dealt with in line with the College's discipline procedures.

### **Illegal drugs and legal highs**

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on the College premises at any time, by any adult or student. Bringing any such items onto the College premises is considered an extremely serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs, either in person on the College premises or via social networking sites, is also considered a very serious breach of this drugs policy.

### **Solvents**

The College will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto the College premises is considered an extremely serious breach of this drugs policy.

### **Cannabis**

The College recognises that modern day cannabis is more dangerous than it was 10-15 years ago. Changes in how it is farmed have led to a significant increase in the amount of delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in it. The modern-day drug, especially in its synthetic form, is more potent and more likely to lead to addiction and cause the physical and mental health problems it has

always been associated with. The College therefore rejects the view that this drug is a low risk recreational drug and, consequently, defines the possession of Cannabis on the college site as an extremely serious breach of this drugs policy.

### **Responses to drug-related incidents**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on the College premises;
- Possession of drugs by an individual on the College premises;
- Possession of drugs paraphernalia by an individual on the College premises;
- Use of drugs by an individual on the College premises;
- Choosing to be in the presence of other students using drugs
- Supply of drugs on the College premises;
- Individuals intoxicated or under the influence of drugs on the College premises;
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use to other students;
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs;
- Hiding drugs in or around the College premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties);
- Glamorising, openly discussing drug use or encouraging the use of drugs and other legal or illegal substances.

Any response to a drug-related incident needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider Wyvern College community and the health and safety of both staff and students.

Escalating sanctions are used if a student uses, possesses or is in the presence of someone using cigarettes, vapes or tobacco products. These are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> time- 75 min after-school detention
- 2<sup>nd</sup> time- day in internal exclusion room
- 3<sup>rd</sup> time- alternative school placement
- 4<sup>th</sup> time or more- suspension

The sanction for students found in possession of other drugs or using other drugs ~~fixed term exclusion~~ is very likely to be suspension.

An expulsion will be used where:

- There is a single serious breach or persistent breaches of our drugs and/or behaviour policies and
- Allowing a student to remain in Wyvern College would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the College or its community.

A student dealing or supplying drugs is therefore likely to be expelled.

The Wyvern College Senior Leadership Team, alongside the safeguarding team, will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and must be immediately reported to the Headteacher.

### **Drug Misuse outside the College premises**

The College may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside of the College premises when students are:

- taking part in any College-organised or College-related activity or
- travelling to or from college or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the College.

The College may consider imposing sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- Could have repercussions for the safe and orderly running of the College;
- Poses a risk or threat to another student, member of staff or member of the public;
- Could adversely affect the reputation of Wyvern College.

### **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any student or adult on the College premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the College will contact the Police for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the Police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals may be informed as appropriate.

### **Confidentiality**

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to other members of the College, unless there is a safeguarding risk. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, all staff will follow the guidance given in the College's Safeguarding Policy and annual safeguarding training, and will report their concerns using the normal College procedures.

### **Support for students**

At Wyvern College, the welfare of our students is paramount and an intervention will be made if the College feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents. These interventions may include:

- Support and advice in College (Pastoral Leaders, Pastoral Assistants, Pupil Premium & Family Support Worker, Wellbeing Assistant, the Designated Safeguarding Leads);
- Reflective work which further educates students about the substances they are using, their effects and what the law says about them.
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. YCP, Catch 22;
- Referral of the student and their family to the Eastleigh Early Help Hub;
- Involvement of the Police and/or Children's Services.

### **Right to Search**

Staff at Wyvern College reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous and poses a serious risk to the health and safety of staff and students.

Searches will be carried out in line with Wyvern College's 'Searching Students' Management Guidance document which complies with the government's guidance "Searching, Screening and Confiscation – Advice for Headteachers, College Staff and Governing Bodies" (DfE – January 2018). The college also employs the use of search dogs to assist in the identification of cannabis or other recreational drugs on site.

If inappropriate items, including drugs, vapes and cigarettes are brought into college or used inappropriately they will be confiscated and stored securely on site before being disposed of at an approved disposal site. These items will not be returned to students or their parent or carer.

Wyvern College works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law, the police may be involved in the confiscation of items. Parents will always be informed when the Police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. Similarly the Police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing drugs. In such cases, the Police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

The safeguarding and pastoral team may also decide to submit a Community Partnership Information Sharing Form (CPI) to Hampshire Police if they receive drugs-related intelligence linked to either Wyvern or other students, or information regarding adults who may pose a threat to the health and safety of Wyvern College and its students.

### **Staff Responsibilities**

Staff have a key role to play in identifying concerns early and providing help for children. Any member of staff who has concerns about the welfare of a child must share this information with the Designated Safeguarding Leads via the 'Report Safeguarding' email button on the Wyvern intranet or through reporting their concerns directly to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

### **As a College, we will educate and encourage students to keep safe through:**

- The content of the curriculum;
- Safeguarding information and a clear reminder of the College's Drugs Policy.
- Safeguarding information readily available to all students around the College site and via the College website;
- A College ethos which helps children to feel safe and able to talk freely about their concerns, believing that they will be listened to and valued.

### **Dealing with allegations against staff**

If a concern is raised about the practice or behaviour of a member of staff this information will be recorded and passed to the Headteacher, Mr Ben Rule. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) will be contacted, if appropriate, and the relevant guidance will be followed.

If the allegation is against the Headteacher, the person receiving the allegation will contact the LADO and the Chair of Trustees directly.

### **Responsibility for implementation**

The safety and welfare of Wyvern students and all members of our College community is **everyone's** responsibility.

### **The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**

**The DSL** is Jo Parker and there is a team of **Deputy DSL's**

### **Trustees**

Trustees will approve this policy at each review, and hold the Headteacher to account for its implementation. The Care, Guidance and Support committee will monitor the effectiveness of this policy in conjunction with the full Trustee Board.

### **The Headteacher**

The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation of this policy, including:

- Ensuring that staff (including temporary staff) and volunteers are informed of this policy as part of their induction;
- Communicating this policy to parents via the College website;
- Ensuring that all staff undertake appropriate safeguarding training and update this regularly.

### **Accountability**

This policy is drafted by the Pastoral Assistant Headteacher. It is the responsibility of the Headteacher and the Pastoral Assistant Headteacher to ensure that the policy is available on the College website for parents and other stakeholders.

### **Supporting documents and appropriate links**

#### **Related documents**

This document should be read in conjunction with the College's Health and Safety Policy, the Safeguarding Policy, the Behaviour and Discipline Policy, Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy, the Inclusion and Exclusion Policy, the Staff Code of Conduct and the College's 'Searching Students' Management Guidance document.

**Related documents: attached to this policy is a list of useful organisations to address concerns around substance misuse.**

### **Review schedule**

As a College, we review this policy **every two years**.

<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>SLT</b>
<b>Last reviewed:</b>	<b>September 2024</b>
<b>Ratified by Care, Guidance &amp; Support Committee</b>	<b>September 2024</b>
<b>Next standard review date:</b>	<b>September 2026</b>

### **Related documents - Useful Organisations**

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450

Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk/](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk/)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drugwise** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk)

Website: [www.drugwise.org.uk](http://www.drugwise.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**National Children's Bureau** promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: [www.ncb.org.uk](http://www.ncb.org.uk)

**Family Lives** - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)** A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762

Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org)

Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

**Youth Offending Teams** – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>