IWYS
Alternative Provision
Drugs, Alcohol & Illegal Substances Education
Policy

Authorised by	Charmaine Baines - Director
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The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drugs advice for IWYS Alternative Provisions.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_IWYS Alternative Provisions.pdf

IWYS Alternative Provision actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, IWYS Alternative Provision takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

This is a Provision where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of IWYS Alternative Provision community. IWYS Alternative Provision 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.

Education and Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age-appropriate education and support is provided. Students say that they find input from external education agencies particularly useful. In response we aim to ensure that this is provided by approved agencies at regular intervals throughout their time at IWYS Alternative Provision. We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by ‘drugs’ we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs **Paraphernalia** we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on IWYS premises

The legal definition of premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, classroom, toilets and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles managed by IWYS Alternative Provision staff at the time.

● Medicines

IWYS Alternative Provision has a policy/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 IWYS Alternative Provision premises or consumed during the course of a IWYS Alternative Provision day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers and visitors) under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole provision. Parents will be asked to collect their children from IWYS Alternative Provision and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

● Smoking

IWYS Alternative Provision premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to IWYS Alternative Provision smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on IWYS Alternative Provision premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on IWYS Alternative Provision premises will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to

”vaping” and the use of electronic cigarettes.

● Illegal drugs and “psychoactive substances”

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to

be brought on to or used on IWYS Alternative Provision premises. Bringing any such items onto IWYS Alternative Provision premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on IWYS Alternative Provision premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

● Solvents

IWYS Alternative Provision 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 IWYS Alternative Provision premises is considered a 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 IWYS Alternative Provision premises

- Possession of drugs by an individual on IWYS Alternative Provision premises

- Use of drugs by an individual on IWYS Alternative Provision premises

- Supply of drugs on IWYS Alternative Provision premises

- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use

- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs

- Hiding drugs in or around IWYS Alternative Provision premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)

- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student. Concerned with the wider IWYS Alternative Provision community.

Exclusion from IWYS Alternative Provision is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

● There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour

● Allowing a student to remain in IWYS Alternative Provision would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in IWYS Alternative Provision.

A member of the SLT will (normally) 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 will be reported to the relevant professionals. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Drug Misuse outside IWYS Alternative Provision premises

In line with Behaviour & Discipline in Schools, (January 2016) IWYS Alternative Provision may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside IWYS Alternative Provisions when students are:

● taking part in any IWYS Alternative Provision-organised or IWYS Alternative Provision-related activity or

● travelling to or from IWYS Alternative Provision or

● in some way identifiable as a student at IWYS Alternative Provision.

IWYS Alternative Provision may also impose 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 orderly running of IWYS Alternative Provision or

● poses a threat to another student or member of the public or

● could adversely affect the reputation of IWYS Alternative Provision.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any student or adult on IWYS Alternative Provision premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, IWYS Alternative Provision will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Catch 22, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

IWYS Alternative Provision will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons,

this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection and Confidentiality policies

for more information on this).

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

Support for students

At our IWYS Alternative Provision the welfare of the student is paramount, and intervention will be made if the IWYS Alternative Provision feels a student is showing signs which indicate risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in IWYS Alternative Provision (teachers, DSLs, first aiders
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support,
- Working with the Police

Right to Search

To protect staff and students, IWYS Alternative Provision will contact parents/carers and police if necessary, to be called in, if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous.

Searches will be requested, and Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened.

IWYS Alternative Provision will work closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in intimate searches and the confiscation of items,

Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Links to other policies

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding

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 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK 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 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: 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 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)

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 7766 9900 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk

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

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

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: 0300 123 6600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com; Website: www.talktofrank.com

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: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.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. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044;

Website: https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree

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

Website:www.childrenssociety.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