



Policy and Procedures for Drugs and Drug Education

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Aug25 CSH Aug26 CSH

Woodland Nuture's overarching priority is to keep all participants safe at all times.

This Policy shall be applied during all Woodland Nuture sessions.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies : Accident and Injury , Safeguarding, Relational Approach to Behaviour, Staff Code of Conduct, Staff Discipline .

Introduction:

- Woodland Nuture understands that drugs play a part in the lives of every one of us and that experimentation with drugs can be a feature of some young people's lives.
- It is the responsibility of all Staff at Woodland Nuture to help reduce the harm from drugs and play a role in drug prevention and help those who misuse drugs.
- This policy takes into consideration Woodland Nuture's legal responsibility, parents/ carers, external agencies and the local community.

Definitions:

- By drugs we mean any substance, excluding food, which, when used brings about changes in the user. Changes can include perceptions, feelings, moods and behaviour. Drugs can thus include medicines, tobacco, and alcohol, solvents used as drugs, "poppers" and illegal substances including cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, heroine and cocaine. This broad definition recognises that whilst some drugs may be regarded as helpful, some perceived as "socially acceptable", all substances have the potential to be harmful and some, fatal.

Our position:

- Woodland Nuture takes a strong stand and will not tolerate the abuse or misuse of drugs, the supplying of illegal drugs or any substance not authorised to be on Woodland Nuture premises, or in the possession of anyone under the jurisdiction of Woodland Nuture.
- Staff and volunteers set a good example at all times and do not bring cigarettes, vapes or any illegal drugs onto the premises.
- We are committed to promoting the health, safety and welfare of our pupils, staff and visitors and will act to promote their well-being at all times and will actively deal with any drug related incidents that may arise.

Roles and responsibilities:

- Claire Hughes has ultimate responsibility for policy content, review and implementation, liaison with, parents, teachers, LEA and other bodies including the media. Responsibility for sanctioning responses to drug related incidents and liaising with relevant staff, parents, police, drug agencies and other appropriate individuals.
- All staff and volunteers are responsible for being vigilant about observing any drug use or conversations regarding drug use within the setting and reporting any concerns to Claire Hughes.

Drug education:

We live in a world where drugs of all descriptions are available and accessible from medicines, tobacco and alcohol to substances which are illegal. We recognise that the choices and decisions that individuals make about the role of any drugs in their lives result in consequences not only for themselves but also for families, friends and the wider community.

As a setting which is part time and focused on Forest School activities, we do not follow a set curriculum that requires us to formally teach drug education. However, we acknowledge we have a duty of care to the young people who attend our sessions which includes age and stage appropriate education regarding drug education.

Our drug education is intrinsic to the healthy lifestyle choices that we promote through our code Care for Yourself, Care for Others, Care for the Environment.

Through our discussions involving drug education we aim to enable children and young people to;

- explore attitudes and values
- acquire skills of informed decision making
- develop their knowledge and understanding to be able to make responsible, informed and healthier choices about the role of drugs in their lives
 - understand how decisions about drugs can have legal, social, economic and health consequences
- know where and how to access support

We build trusting relationships with our participants so that they know they can approach us with any concerns they may have.

As relevant, we will actively co-operate with other agencies, such as community police, social services, the LA and health and drug agencies to deliver our commitment to drug education.

Dealing with drug related incidents:

Any drug related incident will be considered on an individual basis, with due regard to balancing the interests of any individual involved with those of the wider community.

Examples of responses to drug related incidents vary from a reprimand to being reported to the police, from being offered advice and support to being excluded from the setting. As the latter only serves to transfer problems, not resolve them, exclusions will normally be a sanction reserved for use when other measures have failed.

Parents, schools and other agencies including the police will be informed as necessary.

Should a member of staff be caught in possession of drugs on the premises or suspected to be under the influence of drugs, the staff discipline policy will be enforced.

Should a volunteer or adult visitor be caught in possession of drugs on the premises or suspected to be under the influence of drugs, they will be asked to leave the premises immediately.