

Drug and Alcohol Policy September 2024

Date approved:	September 2024
Approved by:	Proprietary Board
Frequency of review:	Annually
Next review due:	September 2025

1. Policy Objectives

It is the aim of Impact North West Schools Ltd (INWS) to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

2. Aims

- To maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors.
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations.
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency.
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum.

3. Key Roles and Responsibilities

The Head of School & Designated Safeguarding Lead are responsible for drug related issues within the school.

4. Inclusive Definition of Drugs

INWS defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

5. Managing Drug Related Incidents: Routine Arrangements

Medicines

INWS has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

Working in partnership with...



Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school. Parents 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 school.

Tobacco/Vaping

The school is a no smoking site - indoors and outdoors, including school vehicles - at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school 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 school premises, they may be confiscated.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Should a student be found in possession of illegal drugs then they may be asked to leave the school permanently.

6. Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug.
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises.
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Process

- The Head of School is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

Working in partnership with...



- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Head of School.
- Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance misuse problems.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in the student being asked to permanently leave the school.
- The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the safety of the student.

Individuals in Possession of Drugs

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated in line with DfE guidance. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Parents of students will be informed and other professionals may be informed or consulted as appropriate. Appropriate investigations will be carried out and sanctions applied in line with the school's Behaviour Policy

Support for Students

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. A caring response will be given to students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral. All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely in the student file.

7. Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a student discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the student in advance of any disclosure of

Working in partnership with...



information to others and if possible enable the student to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person’s anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

8. Staff Training and Support

INWS recognise the need for staff to receive appropriate training to support their work in delivering the school programme of drug education and dealing appropriately with incidents should they arise. The Head of School will organise training related to the identified needs of staff as required.

INWS works alongside Barnado’s and the Wirral Schools Drugs Adviser as part of the Teen Team 0-19 Health and Wellbeing Service.

Working in partnership with...

