

Brine Leas School

An Academy

DRUGS POLICY

Brine Leas School actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our drugs policy.

“A drug is any substance which, when entered into the central nervous system, alters mind or body”

PURPOSE

The purpose of the school drug policy is to:-

- Help our students keep themselves safe.
- Ensure a whole-school approach to drugs as part of its commitment to being a healthy school.
- Enable students to make informed choices by increasing their knowledge and providing opportunities
- Enable students to explore their own and others attitude.
- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs

THE SCHOOL’S STANCE ON DRUGS

Drugs must not be possessed, bought, sold or otherwise obtained on school premises or during the school day, including when pupils are on school visits. This policy applies to all adults working at the school.

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as hired or temporary structures and vehicles, and any other venue managed by the school at the time, i.e. the premises of a school visit.

RESPONDING TO DRUG RELATING INCIDENTS

The school will respond to any drug relating incident including the following:

- 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.
- The supply of drugs on the school premises.
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs.
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (either by themselves or by third parties).
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances.

Individual exceptions will be made for pupils and staff who need to take prescribed medicine. Please refer to the school's Administration of Medication Policy and Medical & Accident Policies.

DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL PREMISES

The school may impose sanctions on a student for drug misuse drugs outside school, when students are:

- Taking part in any school organised or school related activity.
- Travelling to or from school.
- Identifiable as a student at Brine Leas School.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- Could affect the orderly running of the school.
- Poses a threat to another student or member of the public.
- Could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

TARRIF FOR DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Please see tables on the following pages for tariffs relating to drug related incidents.

Incident	First Occasion	Second Occasion	Third Occasion	Fourth Occasion
Possession of Class C Drugs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to a maximum of 5 days fixed term exclusion. • Assessment of situation and student commitment to cooperate • further risk assessment for school (e.g. to ensure curriculum/pastoral programmes address issues raised). • Incident logged. • Parents and student understand legal position from Headteacher. • Consequences of 2nd offence made clear. • Medical attention/support sought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on circumstances fixed term exclusion or possible permanent exclusion. • Medical attention/Intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent exclusion • Medical attention/Intervention 	
Possession of alcohol or supplying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance confiscated. • Parents phoned and letter home. • Incident logged. • Up to maximum of 5 days fixed term exclusion. • Medical attention/support sought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance confiscated. • Parents called to collect student • Up to a maximum of 5 days fixed term exclusion. • Risk assessment for student and school. • Possible behaviour/ health intervention. • Contractual agreement with parents and student. • Medical attention/Intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further risk assessment and behaviour assessment • Fixed term exclusion or Permanent exclusion. • Medical attention/Intervention 	
Possession of cigarettes and vapour machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • Pastoral Detention • Medical attention/support sought. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated and returned directly to parents/guardians. • Parents notified and medical attention sought (school nurse) • Pastoral Detention • Internal Exclusion • Risk assessment and behaviour plan drawn up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • Half a day internal exclusion for repeated defiance of school rules. • Medical attention/intervention • Internal Exclusion • Update risk assessment and behaviour plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • Fixed term exclusion or alternative provision The head teacher reserves the right to exclude any student for repeated offences

Incident	First Occasion	Second Occasion	Third Occasion	Fourth Occasion
Possession of suspected Class A or B Drug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance confiscated. • Parents and Police contacted. • Fixed term exclusion whilst substance verified / pastoral intervention negotiated. • Risk assessment for student and school. • Substance verified: fixed term or permanent exclusion. 	Permanent exclusion.		
Social Supply Illegal Drug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance confiscated. • Parents contacted and Police, if appropriate. • Risk assessment for student(s) and others in school. • Investigation into any network of illegal drug use. • 5 day fixed term exclusion whilst intervention negotiated. • Possible permanent exclusion after assessment and investigation. 	Permanent exclusion.		
Dealing for profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substance confiscated. • Parents and Police contacted. • Permanent exclusion. 			

MEDICINES

The school recognises that there are instances where other non-controlled drugs may legitimately be in school.

Some students may require medicines that have been prescribed for their medical condition during the school day. Staffing, administration, storage and record keeping procedures are all clearly set out in the Administration of Medication Policy.

The Administration of Medication Policy and Medical Needs & Accident Policy also sets out the circumstances in which a student may take non-prescribed/over-the-counter medicines, such as those providing relief from period pains or hay fever. School staff do not give non-prescribed medication to students unless supplied with written authorisation by parent/carer.

N.B. Brine Leas School is a no smoking site.

EDUCATION/ AWARENESS

Brine Leas School believes the school can be active in:-

- Informing pupils, and parents of risks and consequences of drug misuse including alcohol, tobacco, solvents, medication as well as banned substances.
- Teaching pupils the skills needed to resist the pressure to misuse drugs
- Helping to make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable to young people
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and positive activities.
- Ensuring that those most at risk receive appropriate and specific intervention.
- Building on and sharing good practice, and embracing ideas that work best in prevention and education.

1. Drugs education and awareness.

Drugs education at Brine Leas School aims to increase students' knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions about:-

- the short- and long-term effects and risks of drugs;
- the rules and laws relating to drugs;
- the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities;
- the prevalence and acceptability of drug use among peers;
- the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs.

It will also aim to help develop students' personal and social skills to make informed decisions now and in later life, and to keep themselves safe/healthy, including:

- assessing, avoiding and managing risk;
- communicating effectively;
- resisting pressures;
- finding information, help and advice;
- devising problem-solving and coping strategies;

- developing self-awareness and self-esteem;
- develop personal initiative and ability to take responsibility;
- help maintain and develop relationships;
- develop self-confidence;
- developing students' sense of responsibility to themselves and others.

It will also aim to enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.

We have a strong partnership with Catch 22 and referrals can be made by parents or by professionals with the aim to provide:

- information on the emotional, social, physical, financial and legal consequences of using substances
- harm reduction support
- relapse prevention advice
- family support
- solution-focused direct key work
- signposting and support to access positive activities
- preventative group activity
- brief intervention training for other professionals.

We also have weekly drop-ins by a NHS school nurse and students can be referred to them by any member of staff or parent offering similar support to the above.

2. The Curriculum

Students can use the skills taught in other subjects and apply them to the problems of drug use e.g.:-

- **English**

Students can:-

- explore relevant issues through literature;
- develop communication skills in formulating, clarifying and expressing arguments and ideas;
- develop inter-personal skills through drama or role play;
- make considered use of a range of reference materials.

- **Religious Education**

Students can:-

- develop their understanding of moral issues;
- develop the skills to express their own views clearly;
- consider the individual, social and moral consequences of actions.

- **Design and Technology**

Students can:-

- develop awareness of safety, hazards and risks in handling volatile substances;
- use information sources to assess the risk of unfamiliar substances;
- take responsibility for the consequences of their actions for themselves and others.

- **Geography**

Students can:

- consider the impact of drug-related activities (including crime) on location.

- **Citizenship/ PSHCE and Assemblies**

The PSHCE programme provides an educational and behavioural change approach to understanding drugs, smoking and alcohol at age appropriate stages throughout school life in order to develop a clear understanding about these issues and wider social impacts. We also work closely with the Alcohol Education Trust in the information we deliver, and they are available at parents' evenings for parents to meet with for informal discussions about any concerns they may have. The curriculum for PSHCE can be found on the school website.

Students can:-

- develop positive attitudes towards health;
- develop safety awareness.

- **Science**

Consider the effects of drugs on the body.

- **Physical Education**

Consider the moral questions surrounding the use and impact of the use of drugs in sport.

EDUCATION APPROACHES / METHODOLOGY

The following different approaches will be used:

1. **Fear Arousal**

Ineffective if used in isolation but can be successfully used in assemblies with other strategies used with smaller groups

2. **Information Based Programmes**

It is essential to maintain a balance if this is the main vehicle. Science could deal with the chemical and physical effects, English with the attitudes etc.

3. Life Skills Approach

This is found to be the most effective and longest lasting approach. To be effective this should include the use of external speakers, debate, role play and should allow time to reflect.

STAFF

Signs which may indicate drug taking:

- the keeping of secrets and private places;
- the keeping of a friends belongings for 'safe keeping';
- the loss of interest in school, hobbies, sport, friends;
- association with a new group of friends;
- unexplained drowsiness/tiredness;
- unusual, sudden or regular changes in mood;
- unexpected or excessive aggressiveness;
- the loss of appetite;
- the loss of money or other objects from the home;
- the uncharacteristic telling of lies;
- the presence of unusual stains, marks or smells on the body, clothes or around the home.

N.B. All of the aforementioned signs can be caused by many other psychological and behavioural changes in addition to an involvement with drugs. Concerns should be reported through the 'normal' safeguarding channel.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL

Personal Searches

- Personal Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress.
- The school will ensure that a second adult witness of the same gender as the student is present wherever possible. If a student refuses to be searched, the school will consider whether to call the police.
- When a person is suspected of **concealing** illegal or other unauthorised drugs staff will carry out a personal search if the student agrees; this includes the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets. Every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness. Where the individual refuses and the school wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police will be called.

Searches of school property

- Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will be sought, however individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may proceed with a search. Where consent is refused, the school will balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk of infringing the individual's privacy without just cause.

Searches of personal property

- The school may search personal property with consent, including students' property stored within school property, for example a bag or pencil case within a locker. Prior consent will be sought, however, individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused, the school may still proceed with the search.

LEGAL POSITION/DISPOSAL OF DRUGS

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected illegal drugs staff will:-

- Ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout.
- Seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
- Store it in the Headteacher's PA's office whilst the police are notified.
- Without delay notify the police, who will be asked to collect it and then store or dispose of it. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken but in the case of an illegal drug will normally do so. Liaison will take place to ensure the safe disposal of any substances. Where a student is identified the police will be required to follow set internal procedures.
- Record full details of the incident on CPOMS, including notes of any discussions with the students. These should include date, time place and people present. The police incident reference number should also be included.
- Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances. Police may advise on analysis and formal identification.

LEGAL DRUGS

The police will not always necessarily be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the school may inform the police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Parents/carers will be informed that the alcohol/tobacco has been disposed of. In cases where a disciplinary proceeding is necessary, items will be disposed of once this has taken place.

VOLATILE SUBSTANCES

Given the level of danger posed by volatile substances, the school will arrange for their safe disposal via the Police.

MEDICINES

Parents/carers will be informed and will be asked to collect and dispose of unused or date-expired medicines. Further details are outlined in the medicines policy.

DISPOSAL OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA

Needles or syringes found on school premises will be placed in a sturdy, secure container, using gloves. A sharps container is kept in the office for this purpose, out of reach of students. The disposal of other drugs paraphernalia, such as grinders and bongs etc., will be done through the police or other appropriate methods.

REFERRAL AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT

The pastoral team and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for referral to external agencies.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to students.

Teachers should fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:-

- Child protection/safeguarding.
- Co-operating with a police investigation.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS/CARERS/VISITORS

Parents/carers are encouraged to approach the school if they are concerned about any issue related to drugs and their child and the school will refer parents/carers to other sources of help, for example, specialist drug agencies or family support groups, as required.

We will contact parent/carers if we suspect drugs are being used, even without concrete evidence. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a student into the care of a parent/carer.

In such instances, the school will discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home and may contact Social Services. This process will be done in conjunction with the school's safeguarding team.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The school governors will also be involved in disciplinary proceedings as appropriate.

REVIEWING AND EVALUATING POLICIES

Within our regular reviews, we will monitor and assess the effectiveness of our policies and strategies in:-

- increasing awareness of the risks and consequences of drug misuse;
- teaching pupils the skills to resist the pressure to misuse drugs;
- helping to make the misuse of drugs less culturally acceptable;
- promoting healthy lifestyles;
- ensuring that those most at risk receive appropriate and specific intervention.

IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY/ POLICY FORMULATION

We will implement the policy through the Pastoral Committee, the School Nurse, School Parliament. Parents will discuss this policy at the Parents Information Evening about drugs.

TRAINING

In order to support the implementation of the policy, we will develop a training strategy, which includes providing regular training and support for all staff and governors so that they understand how to implement the requirements of the Drugs Policy.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy relates to the following policies:

- Positive Schooling Handbook
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Curriculum policy,
- Administering Medication Policy
- Medical Needs and Accident Policy
- Safeguarding (Child Protection) Policy

Reviewed/Updated by: L Darling	Date: April 2018
Approved by Governors: May 2018 Students' Committee	Review Date: April 2020
Compiled/updated by: R Oakes	Date: July 2016

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

ADFAM	Offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of family support services	Telephone: 020 75537640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: 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.	Telephone: 020 7264 0510 Email: contact@alcoholconcern.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.	Telephone: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk
Children's Legal Centre	Operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.	Telephone: 020 7264 0510 Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk
Children's Rights Alliance for England	A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child	Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org
Drinkaware	An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping to reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.	Telephone: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk
Drugwise	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.	Telephone: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.co.uk
FRANK	FRANK is a national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of taking illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give skills and confidence to talk to their children about drugs.	24 Hr Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

USEFUL ORGANISATIONS

Mentor UK	This is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.	Telephone: 020 7739 8494 Email: admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentor.org.uk
National Children's Bureau	The National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and wellbeing of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.	Telephone: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk
Family Lives	A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a freephone helpline and courses for parents, and developments innovative projects.	Telephone: 0800m 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.	Telephone: 01785 817885 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org
Smokefree	NHS Smoking helpline.	Telephone: 0800 169 0169 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
Youth Offending Teams	Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority. They have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.	Website: https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team