

Brine Leas School

An Academy

DRUGS EDUCATION 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:-

- 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 and 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.

Individual exceptions will be made for pupils and staff who need to take prescribed medicine.

Incident	First Occasion	Second Occasion	Third Occasion	Fourth Occasion
Possession of Cannabis and 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on circumstances fixed term exclusion or possible permanent exclusion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent exclusion 	
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. 	<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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further risk assessment and behaviour assessment • Fixed term exclusion or Permanent exclusion. 	
Possession of cigarettes and vapour machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • Pastoral Detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated and returned directly to parents/guardians. • Parents notified and medical attention sought. (school nurse) • Pastoral Detention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • Half a day internal exclusion for repeated defiance of school rules. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Items confiscated. • Parents notified. • One day internal exclusion for repeated defiance of school rules. • 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 medication and first aid policy.

The medicines 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 embrace 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 and keep themselves safe and 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;
- endow pupils with 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/ Lifeskills 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 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 secret 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 following signs can be caused by many other psychological and behavioural changes in addition to an involvement with drugs

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 seek consent and ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused they 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 will search personal property with consent. If the school wishes to search personal property, including students' property stored within school property, for example a bag or pencil case within a locker, they will ask for consent. Where consent is refused they will consider, in the case of students, notifying parents/carers, who may persuade their child to give consent or if they wish to proceed along formal lines calling the police.

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 safe place
- 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, 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.

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 tin is kept in the office for this purpose, out of reach of students. Used needles and syringes will be disposed of appropriately and not put in domestic waste.

REFERRAL AND EXTERNAL SUPPORT

The pastoral team and Senior Leadership Team are responsible for referral to external agencies. National helplines/websites are listed in the students organisers.

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.
- 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.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The school governors will also be involved in disciplinary proceedings as and when needed.

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 Education Policy.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy relates to the code of conduct policy, curriculum policy, health and safety policy, medicines policy and the child protection policy

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