



Brentwood School

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON DRUGS – EDUCATION AND MISUSE

Introduction

Brentwood School aims to promote the highest possible levels of personal conduct and academic achievement. The guiding principles of Virtue, Learning and Manners encourage the development of self-discipline, personal integrity and mutual tolerance whilst instilling the view that with opportunity comes responsibility. We adhere to Christian principles, but we are an inclusive community and welcome pupils from a wide variety of faiths, ethnic, and social backgrounds. We treat everyone as an individual and aim to develop the whole person equipped to take their place in the modern world.

We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management.

This policy has been developed following the advice outlined in [The DfE publication “Behaviour and Discipline in Schools” \(2016\)](#). The DfE & ACPO publication “[Drugs Advice for Schools](#)” (September 2012) and [The Home Office Resource Pack for Informal Educators and Practitioners on New Psychoactive Substances](#) (NPS).

Context

This drugs policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but also legal ones including alcohol, tobacco and e-cigarettes (vaping/(e)-shisha), new psychoactive substances and drugs sold over the counter or provided on prescription. Although the majority of young people of school-age do not abuse drugs, all students are likely to be exposed at some time to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs. Such experiments may lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For children and young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends, may lead to dependency and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

Aims

It is our aim to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. Through education and pastoral care, the School will promote the health and welfare of all members of the School community.

Brentwood School has a whole-school approach to drugs as part of its commitment to promoting the health and welfare of all members of the school community. The policy aims to enable pupils to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs. This is done by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing students’ confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and

supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those who misuse drugs receive appropriate support.

Drugs

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. Drug misuse is when a person experiences social, psychological, physical harm or legal problems related to intoxication or the regular consumption of or dependence on a drug.

Brentwood School considers that the use of new psychoactive substances, including nitrous oxide, is likely to be damaging to a young person's health, safety and well-being.

This policy covers illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C), new psychoactive substances, including nitrous oxide, as well as alcohol, tobacco, shisha, e-shisha and vaping liquid, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour that can be inhaled) and over the counter and prescription medicines; this is not an exhaustive list. In addition, performance enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, fall within the scope of this policy.

To protect the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and staff, drugs must not be possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on School premises or during the School day, including when pupils are on School visits or when representing the School at other off-site events. The policy and procedures apply to all adults working at and for the school. Individual exceptions will be made for pupils and staff who need to take prescribed medicines.

Any pupil found in possession of an illegal substance in School or during the School day or on a School trip or visit **is at risk of permanent exclusion**, as outlined in the Behaviour Management Policy and may be reported to the police.

If a member of staff appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the course of their duties on the school premises, they will be removed from contact with pupils. This matter will then be investigated, under the guidance of the Headmaster, and the member of staff may then be subject to the School's disciplinary procedures.

Parents who appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol when on the school site will be asked to leave and the member of staff who made this request should then refer this matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If there is reason to believe that a child is at risk because a parent is under the influence of drugs or alcohol when driving, this will also be dealt with as a safeguarding matter, following the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Medicines

The school has a protocol for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. This is accessible via the School's website or via this link: [Administration of Medicines Protocol](#)

The Headmaster may require a pupil to give a biological sample under medical supervision to test for the use of illegal drugs or other substances damaging to health. The result of the sample analysis will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record.

Alcohol

The School policy is that it is unacceptable for pupils to bring in to School, use in School, or whilst at School, be under the influence of any form of alcohol. Alcohol at certain, School events, with the permission of the Headmaster, may be consumed in moderation by Sixth

Form pupils under staff supervision. A student suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol may be asked to give a sample of his/her breath by blowing into a breathalyser.

Please refer to the Trips and Visits policy for the regulations for the consumption of alcohol on School Trips.

Pupils and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and not return until it is safe for them to do so, in the interests of the safety of the whole school (see above under “Drugs”)

Smoking

The school is a no smoking site, including e-cigarettes/vape pens, at all times. Pupils are not permitted to bring to School smoking or vaping equipment, including matches, cigarette papers, vaping liquids and lighters. The effects on health of smoking is taught and discussed as part of the Wellbeing (PSHE) curriculum. In the interests of health and safety, should a pupil be found in possession of any items associated with smoking on school premises, sanctions will be imposed according to the School’s Behaviour Management Policy.

Further Information

Useful sources of information, support and details of helplines available are listed at the end of this policy.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headmaster will ensure that:

- The School fulfils its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in the “DfE and ACPO: Drug Advice for Schools” publication, September 2012.
- The Senior Leadership Team is appointed to have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy and a planned drug education programme is provided as part of the Wellbeing (PSHE) curriculum;
- Pupils who have a concern about drugs are provided with support from the Pastoral Team, the SAN nurses and external agencies, as appropriate, and their parents informed unless it is not in the student’s best interest to do so;
- The School works with external agencies as appropriate and the Police are informed where there is reason to believe or suspect a pupil to be in possession of a controlled substance;
- Drug related issues are dealt with in line with the School’s Safeguarding policy and Behaviour Management policy.

All **staff** are expected to:

- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and understanding of the health and social issues related to substance abuse, exploring their own and other people’s attitudes and developing and practising personal skills to resist peer group pressure, and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse;
- Provide accurate information about drugs, including new psychoactive substances alcohol, tobacco and substance use/abuse and to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse;
- Widen the pupils’ understanding of health and social issues related to substance abuse;
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support, but noting that if a pupil seeks support from a member of staff concerning drug misuse, confidentiality cannot be maintained if there is reason to suspect a young person

may be at risk of harm (see the School's Safeguarding Policy) and where the School has a duty to report to the Police when there is reason to suspect a pupil is in possession of a controlled substance;

- Report incidents of drug misuse to the Headmaster and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- Ensure that any pupil suspected to be under the influence of drugs, including alcohol, on the school site or on a School trip or School related activity is taken to a place of safety, those around them are also safe, and first aid administered/medical advice sought as required.

Students will be expected to:

- Follow the school rules;
- Alert staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the School site.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Endorse the School's approach to drugs education;
- Work in partnership with the School to overcome the misuse of drugs.

The School Governors, working with the School's Senior Leadership Team, will ensure that:

- The School does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, consumption or supply of any controlled drug in addition to solvents, psychoactive substances alcohol (alcohol only with the permission of the Headmaster) and tobacco (including e-cigarettes/e-shisha/vaping pens and liquids);
- The School, parents and external agencies work together to support any pupil involved in drug abuse;
- The School's Behaviour Management policy is implemented successfully.

Education

The Wellbeing (PSHE) programme promotes health education, which is appropriate to the pupil's age and level of development and includes information and the opportunity for discussion about the effects on health and the possible social and legal issues surrounding drugs, alcohol and smoking. Although delivered mainly through our Wellbeing programme these messages are reinforced in other parts of the curriculum and during Whole School and Year assemblies.

School trips and visits

The policy and procedures apply whether the pupil is on site or on a trip or visit. The nature of the offsite trip will determine the extent to which the procedure can be carried out on the trip itself.

Individuals in possession of drugs

Pupil searches and the confiscation of pupil belongings

Where necessary the Headmaster and staff have the power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Parents will be informed when this has happened. The Headmaster and authorised School staff may use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search without consent for knives or weapons, alcohol, illegal drugs, stolen items, tobacco or cigarette papers, fireworks, pornographic images or articles that have been or could be used to commit an offence or cause harm. Force cannot be used to search for those additional items in the School rules which may be searched for without consent.

General power to confiscate

Where the person finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs, these can be confiscated where it is believed that they are harmful or detrimental to good

order and discipline. This includes new psychoactive substances. If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug. If inappropriate articles are brought in to School or used inappropriately they will be confiscated. If these items are dangerous or illegal, they may be handed to the Police for safe disposal.

CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

If you have any concerns or complaints, the Schools Complaints Procedure is available on the School's website or can be sent to you on request.

Useful Organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 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 Tel: 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. Tel: 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. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

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.uk

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 7307 7450 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: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com

Drugscope is 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. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

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: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 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 free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 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. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 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