



Brentwood School

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

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	Trips & Visits Policy	Safeguarding Policy	

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

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 understanding 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 is applicable to our pupils and parents and is available to them via our website.

The drugs and alcohol policy for all adults working at and for the school can be found in the staff code of conduct.

Context

This drugs and alcohol policy covers not only illegal drugs (such as cannabis, heroin and ecstasy) but also legal ones including alcohol, tobacco and vapes, 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 or alcohol, all pupils are likely to be exposed at some time to the effects and influences of drugs or alcohol 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 and alcohol can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and 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 alcohol and a wide range of drugs exist. Through education and pastoral care, the School will promote and support the health and wellbeing of all members of the School community.

Brentwood School has a whole-school approach to the misuse of drugs and alcohol 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 and alcohol through the Wellbeing Programme and other areas of the curriculum and co-curricular programme, for example sport. This is done by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs and alcohol; by developing pupils' confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs and

alcohol; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those who misuse drugs and alcohol receive appropriate intervention. As a community we encourage pupils to talk to staff if they are worried about themselves or others.

Drugs

For the purpose of this policy, the term 'drug' refers to any harmful and/or illegal substance, or misuse of prescribed medication.

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.

This policy covers illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C), psychoactive substances, including nitrous oxide (classified as a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971), possession of which is illegal if it is, or is likely to be, wrongfully inhaled, as well as alcohol, tobacco, 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, it is unacceptable for pupils to bring into School, use, buy or sell in School, or whilst at School be under the influence of any form of drugs (as defined above) including when pupils are identifiable as a member of the School, on School visits or when representing the School at other off-site events. Individual exceptions will be made for pupils who need to take prescribed medicines.

Any pupil found in breach of the School's policy on drugs **is at risk of permanent exclusion**, as outlined in the Behaviour Policy, and may be reported to the police.

If reasonable grounds for suspicion exist, the Headmaster may require a pupil to give a urine 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.

If a pupil refuses to take a drugs test this may be treated as an independent breach of school rules and dealt with accordingly.

Unless there are reasons to believe that to do so would put the young person at greater risk of harm, the School will inform parents that their child has been tested for drugs.

Medicines

The school has a protocol for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. This is accessible via the [policies page](#) on the School's website.

Alcohol

Pupils must not bring into School any alcohol which is intended for consumption by themselves or other pupils, either in or out of School. Whilst at school pupils must not be under the influence of alcohol.

However, alcohol may be consumed in moderation by Sixth Form pupils at certain School events. This must be under staff supervision as part of a formal meal, only in a licenced venue on the School site or at a licenced venue off-site at a School-organised event. In addition it must be with the permission of the Headmaster, and, if under the age of 18, with prior written consent of a parent. A pupil suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol may be asked to give a sample of his/her breath by blowing into a breathalyser.

Responding to those under the influence of a substance

Pupils who appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the course of the school day will be looked after by a member of the School's medical staff, unless they need emergency medical care in hospital, until they are collected and taken home. If a pupil needs emergency medical care in hospital, the School will inform parents and make every reasonable effort to accompany the pupil to hospital. Any Boarding Pupils under the effects of drugs or alcohol will be looked after by the House team or Sanatorium staff until they are collected by either a parent or guardian, unless they need emergency medical care in hospital. Any resulting disciplinary action for pupils will follow the School's Behaviour policy.

If there is reason to believe that a child is at risk because a parent is under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on the school site or when driving a pupil to and from the School site, this will be dealt with as a safeguarding matter, following the School's Safeguarding Policy.

Smoking

The School is a smoke-free and vape-free environment. Pupils are not permitted to bring to School smoking or vaping equipment, including matches, cigarette papers, vaping liquids and lighters or nicotine pouches/snus. 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 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 Senior Leadership Team will ensure that:

- The School fulfils its legal responsibilities in regard to drug and alcohol related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and

national guidance as outlined in the [“The DfE & ACPO publication “Drugs Advice for Schools” \(September 2012\)](#)

- The Senior Leadership Team is appointed to have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy and a planned drug and alcohol education programme is provided as part of the Wellbeing (PSHE) curriculum;
- Pupils who have a concern about drugs and alcohol are provided with support from the Pastoral Team, the SAN nurses and external agencies, as appropriate, and their parents informed, unless to do so would put the pupil at risk of harm (see the School’s Safeguarding Policy);
- 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 and alcohol related issues are dealt with in line with the School’s Safeguarding policy and Behaviour policy.

All **staff** are expected to:

- Be positive role models and promote positive pupil attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;

All **Teaching staff** (including those working directly with children), when and where appropriate, are expected to:

- Enable pupils 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 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 and alcohol misuse to the Headmaster and/or a member of the Senior Leadership Team;
- Make every reasonable effort to 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.

Pupils will be expected to:

- Follow the school rules;

- Alert staff to any drug and alcohol related incidents on or around the School site, on School trips and off-site activities.

Parents are encouraged to:

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

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 – see above) and tobacco (including vaping pens and liquids and nicotine pouches/snus);
- The School, parents and external agencies work together to support any pupil involved in drug or alcohol abuse;
- The School's Behaviour and Safeguarding policies are 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 an investigation can be carried out on the trip itself.

Individuals in possession of drugs and alcohol

Pupil searches and the confiscation of pupil belongings

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.

Please also refer to Annex D of the Behaviour policy (Pupil searches and the confiscation of pupil belongings). Further guidance can be found here:

[DfE Searching, Screening and confiscation: Advice for Schools](#)

[Use of reasonable force: Advice for headteachers, staff, and governing bodies.](#)

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 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 into School or used inappropriately, they will be confiscated. If these items are dangerous or illegal, the school will consult the Police regarding safe disposal.

COMPLAINTS

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

Further support, advice and guidance

If you are worried about any aspect of substance use or misuse, either your own or that of another person you can speak to a member of staff.

There are also several Useful Organisations that you can refer to:

We are with you 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. Website: www.wearewithyou.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change 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 3907 8480. Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk Website: alcoholchange.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) a campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Child Law Advice operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 0300 330 5480 Website: <https://childlawadvice.org.uk/> www.childlawadvice.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. Tel: 020 3174 2279 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. 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: 0300 123 1110 (weekdays 9am–8pm, weekends 11am–4pm).

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: 0300 1236600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

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: 0808 800 2222 Website: <https://www.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 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree – NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>