

DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY FOR THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



NAMED PERSON: M WARDLE
ATTACHED COMMITTEE: Performance

Adopted: Sept 2011
Last Review: April 2019
Review Cycle: 2 Years
Next Review Date: April 2021

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Introduction

The Buckingham School is committed to the health and safety of its staff and students and will take action to safeguard their well being. The school is well aware that young people's drug misuse may have a serious impact on their health, well being and academic achievement and to this end The Buckingham School has a part in reducing the risk.

The School condones neither the use of drugs or alcohol by staff or students of The Buckingham School, nor the illegal supply of those substances.

The objective of this policy is to show the schools commitment in preventing drug and alcohol misuse. This will be achieved by providing guidance on the provision of pastoral care for those involved, ensuring staff, students and parents clearly understand the schools position on drugs and alcohol and to create an effective management tool for handling drug and alcohol related incidents.

The policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and external agencies working within the school. The policy applies to all of the above when within the school boundaries, on educational visits or being educated at another provider (as arranged by the school). Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

An authorised drug is a prescription medicine which needs to be taken during school hours by a student. Any other drug is unauthorised as is sharing/giving an authorised drug with/to someone else. Authorised drugs should be kept safe by the student or by the school's first aid coordinator who will oversee them according to the school's medicine's policy

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies September 2012:

Key Points.

- Pupils affected by their own or other's drug misuse should have early access to support through the school and other local services;
- Schools are strongly advised to have a written drugs policy to act as a central reference point for all school staff;
- It is helpful for a senior member of staff to have responsibility for this policy and for liaising with the local police

Drug and Alcohol Education

Drug and alcohol education will be provided to all students as part of the schools personal, social and health education (PSHE) curriculum in accordance with the schools PSHE policy.

The termly assembly program and Personal Development activities are focused on key subjects which support healthy lifestyle choices and raises awareness of key issues such a substance use.

The Buckingham School staff will receive periodical presentations on drug awareness and recognition from external agencies.

Students of years 8-10 also have enrichment days with a specific workshop on drugs and alcohol delivered.

SWITCH referrals are available for all students and family workers where required and consent is given,

(Switch is an alcohol and drug service working with young people across Buckinghamshire. Switch offers support and information, and helps young people to develop life skills to make healthy choices around their alcohol and drug use - choices which are important to them. Switch also provides support and information for the families and carers of young people who are struggling with substance misuse.)

Prevention

The Role of Schools

As part of the statutory duty on schools to promote pupils' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2010 ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse

The school has periodically used Drug Detector and Screening dogs to educate and encourage students to make positive choices around bringing drugs into school and to reinforce the message that drugs are not acceptable on the school premises.

The Buckingham School will conduct searches if there is a suspicion that drugs are present on the premises. In addition to controlled drugs/illegal substances, legal highs are also forbidden on school site due to the unpredictable nature of the ingredients and possible impacts this could have on students and the community.

Drug-Related Incident Management

An *incident* in relation to this statement can cover all manner of events. The type of incident will dictate the response required and the process to follow. Each incident will be considered individually, and a variety of responses will be necessary.

*Any response to drug-related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take schools should follow their own disciplinary procedures. Exclusion should not be the automatic response to a drug incident and permanent exclusion should only be used in serious cases. More detail on excluding pupils can be found in the DfE Exclusion Guidance.

Drug use can be a symptom of other problems and schools should be ready to involve or refer pupils to other services when needed. It is important that schools are aware of the relevant youth and family support services available in their local area.

*Taken from DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, September 2012

The Head Teacher is responsible for co-ordinating the School's response to drug-related incidents.

(1) Incidents involving evidence of drug use or supply, or finding drugs or drug paraphernalia or alcohol, without knowing who is involved on the premises.

- (a) When a substance suspected of being a controlled drug or drugs paraphernalia or alcohol, is found on the school's premises the matter must be brought to the attention of the Head Teacher immediately, or in their absence the next most senior member of staff on the premises at the time.
- (b) The member of staff, taking possession of the item, together with the member of staff it is reported to, will place the item in a sealed evidence bag (if available) and place it in a secure area. The circumstances of the find should be recorded in the drug policy incident book and/or Go 4 Schools reporting system. (Care should be taken if the item contains a sharp point, such as a needle, to ensure anyone subsequently handling the bag and item(s) are not put at risk of accidental injury).
- (c) If there is a risk to a student and/or members of staff or anyone else present, the police will be called as a matter of urgency, and if necessary, the school's safeguarding procedures will be followed.
- (d) The Head Teacher will decide on the appropriate response which may include exclusion. Consideration will be given to working with parents and other appropriate agencies to provide help and support to the student.

Intruders on the premise under the influence of drugs/alcohol

When a person who is not a member of the school, is found on the premises under the influence, or suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol then the first priority will be the safety and welfare of the staff and students. If there is a risk to a student and/or members of staff or anyone else present, the police will be called as a matter of urgency, and if necessary, the schools safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Possession or use of drugs away from the school premises

If a student admits to using or supplying drugs off the premises the teacher's discretion will be used. He/she should inform the Headteacher of the School who will agree an appropriate course of action, which may include informing the parents and or contacting the local drugs services and or the police. Staff should not promise confidentiality to any student.

Any support through SWITCH can also be provided if the student requests.

Students on the premises under the influence of drugs or in possession

When a student is found on the premises under the influence, or suspected of being under the influence of drugs a then the first priority will be the safety and welfare of the student immediately and then the community. If there is a risk to a student and/or members of staff or anyone else present, the police will be called as a matter of urgency, and if necessary, the schools safeguarding procedures will be followed. If a student arrives to school under the influence and/or in possession of drugs, on more than one occasion then the school will likely pursue a permanent exclusion due to repeated breaking of school policy.

Accusations/suspicion of supplying controlled drugs

Where a student of The Buckingham School is proved to have been supplying controlled drugs on the premises then this is highly likely to lead to permanent exclusion and the police being informed.

Incidents involving parents/carers and other family members

As in all drug related incidents the safety and welfare of the student must be the main concern. The use of, or supply of drugs by parents/carers or other family members does not necessarily mean that the student will be at risk. In all such cases the response will be guided by reference to the schools safe guarding procedures,

Searching students and their possessions

The Headteacher can designate power to staff to search a student if they believe students are in possession of drugs. Students should therefore be requested to remove suspected items from their person, or possessions, for examination. If the student refuses and the case is of a serious nature, the police should be contacted with a request to attend the school to carry out a search. The member of staff must have reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of a controlled substance and be able to communicate this to the police. The decision to contact the police will be made by the Headteacher, or in their absence the most senior member of staff present on the premises. Staff must then complete a search form.

Review

The statement will be reviewed on an annual basis and following the occurrence of an incident. Reviews will be carried out by the Senior Leadership Team.

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Mr Matthew Watkins
Chairman
Governing Body

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Watkins', with a horizontal line underneath.

Date: April 2019