

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



NAMED PERSON: M WARDLE
ATTACHED COMMITTEE: Curriculum

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Last Review: May 2021
Review Cycle: 2 Years
Next Review Date: May 2023

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

Definition of a drug:

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By drugs paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

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 statutory PSHE program within the National Curriculum. The School delivers this through its personal development curriculum.

Other opportunities for drug and alcohol education, include the assembly program, the tutor program and enrichment opportunities.

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 will use 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 students and the community

Drug-Related Incident Management

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

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.

In response to drug-related incidents the School will balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take the School will follow their own behaviour for learning policy. Exclusion is not our automatic response to a drug incident and we only permanently exclude in serious cases. More detail on excluding pupils can be found in the DfE Exclusion Guidance.

We recognise that drug use can be a symptom of other problems and we are ready to involve or refer pupils to other services when needed. The School regularly engages with youth and family support services available in their local area.

1. Finding drugs on the premises:

Incidents involving evidence of drug use or supply, finding drugs or drug paraphernalia or alcohol on the premises.

- (a) When a substance suspected of being a controlled drug or drugs paraphernalia or alcohol, is found on the Schools 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 School will report the incident to the police and record the relevant information
- (c) 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 placed in a secure area (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).
- (d) 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 the Schools safeguarding procedures will be followed.

2. Students in possession of drugs or alcohol or under the influence:

- (a) When a student is found on the premises under the influence, or suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol then the first priority will be the safety and welfare of the student immediately and then the community.
- (b) 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, the Schools safeguarding procedures will be followed.
- (c) If a student arrives to school under the influence and/or in possession of drugs or alcohol, on more than one occasion then the School will consider an exclusion due to repeated breaking of school policy.

3. Possession or use of drugs away from the school premises

- (a) If a student is known to use or be supplying drugs or alcohol illegally off the premises the Headteacher's discretion will be used. The School will protect the student's welfare in line with its safeguarding policy

4. Visitors & Intruders on the premise under the influence of drugs/alcohol

- (a) 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 they will be asked to leave immediately.
- (b) If there is a risk to staff and students or anyone else present, the police will be called as a matter of urgency, the Schools safeguarding procedures will be followed.

5. Incidents involving members of staff are covered by the School's code of conduct policy

6. Incidents involving parents/carers and other family members is covered in the School's safeguarding policy.

7. Searching students and their possessions

The Buckingham School reserves the right to search if they feel a student has drugs, weapons or prohibited items if they feel the safety of the community is under threat. 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.

The Buckingham School works closely with its Police Liaison Officers (Problem Solving Team). If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items and Restorative Justice Work, unless there are reasons why this should not be the case (for instance, serious safeguarding concerns). Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are formally involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

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.

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk / Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK 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: 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 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk / Website: <http://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 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.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 7766 9900 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 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise 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.drugwise.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: 0300 123 6600 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: 020 963 2751. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: <https://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: 0808 800 2222 Website: 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. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org / Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044; Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

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Mr Matthew Watkins
Chairman
Governing Body

Signed: 

Date: May 2021