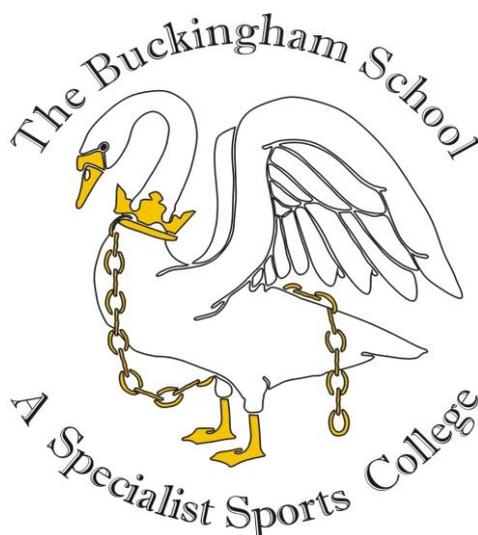


DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY FOR THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



NAMED PERSON: M WARDLE
ATTACHED COMMITTEE: PPR

Adopted: Sept 2011
Last Review: June 2017
Review Cycle: 2 Years
Next Review Date: June 2019

Success for all through Achievement, Challenge & Enjoyment

THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL – A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE



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.

This policy works in conjunction with the following policies:

- Behaviour for learning Policy
- Right to Search Policy
- Positive Handling Policy

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.

Definitions

This statement when referring to drugs includes all illegal drugs, solvents and volatile substances. Prescribed medication or other medications purchased over the counter are covered by the schools 'Managing Medicines policy.

This statement applies to all personnel studying or working at The Buckingham School as well as those employed by other agencies and includes students, staff members, volunteers, visitors, parents, guardians, carers and governors.

'Illegal drugs' are defined as drugs that are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

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 Buckingham School staff will receive periodical presentations on drug awareness and recognition.

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

Add Action referrals are available for all students and family workers where required.

Prevention

The Buckingham School will display details of telephone helplines and appropriate website addresses for students who wish to seek individual help. Counselling will also be available, with the local young people's drug service, contactable through the Connexions service personal advisor.

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 use of Drug Detector and Screening dogs can also be used on a periodical basis to reinforce the message that drugs are not acceptable on the school premises. Both dogs and handlers shall be trained to ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) standards by recognised Home Office accredited training schools and will be operated to ACPO standards.

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-Relate 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.

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 schools premise 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 placed 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 schools 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 Addaction can also be provided if the student requests.

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 will automatically 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.

Media

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media concerning any incidents after consultation with the Local Authority via the Head of School Improvement.

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: 

Date: June 2017