

Birkdale High School



**Birkdale
High School**

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

Drugs Policy
February 2019-21



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Date of Policy: February 2019
Members of staff responsible: Assistant Headteacher
Review date: February 2021

Policy Statements

For the purposes of this policy, 'drugs' refers to all illicit and illegal drugs, including volatile substances (solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites), alcohol and illegal drugs. The term also refers to medicines that are prescribed and/or bought over the counter that have been brought into school for illicit purposes.

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act (1971), it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (for example, possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). This policy extends to those substances covered by the Act and other substances that are not illegal but may be consumed for intoxicating purposes such as solvents and alcohol. The possession of tobacco and related paraphernalia is covered in a separate policy.

Medicines are handled in accordance with the 'Managing Medicine on School Premises' section of our Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy.

- Birkdale High School will be an environment free from drugs; the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs and the "culture" of drugs.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of all members of the community and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.
- Birkdale High School seeks to educate its students and to help them develop into mature young men who are able to say no to drugs.
- The school acknowledges the importance of the pastoral care it provides and the curriculum in supporting and educating students to make well informed, sensible choices about drugs.
- The possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context, which is defined as on any school premises or during any school activity, is totally forbidden.
- Any instances of possession, use or supply of drugs in the school context will be viewed as an extremely serious disciplinary matter which may lead to permanent exclusion from school.
- When dealing with drugs related incidents, the school will follow guidance provided to schools by the Department for Education and will engage with external agencies, including the Police, as necessary.

Aims of the Policy:

- To ensure that Birkdale High School is free from illegal and illicit drugs (including substances that may be used for intoxicating purposes such as volatile substances [solvents, aerosols, gases and nitrites], alcohol and tobacco).
- To educate students on the effects of drugs on the mind and body.
- To provide opportunities for students to practise the personal and social skills and develop the strategies required to deal with situations involving drugs.
- To promote the self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth of all individuals.
- To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs.
- To enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- To enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.
- To provide a clear framework for dealing with drugs related incidents where a student is under the school's authority. Being under the school's authority is defined as:
 - throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises
 - whenever he is involved in any activity organised by the School
 - whenever he is wearing school uniform or otherwise identifiable as a member of the School

Dealing with Drugs Related Incidents:

Any drugs related incident will be investigated thoroughly, fairly, confidentially and promptly, in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy, Department for Education guidance and Police guidance.

All drugs related incidents will be handled by the Senior Leadership Team and the respective Head of Year.

Parents will be informed if their son is suspected of being involved in a drugs related incident.

A student who is involved in a drugs related incident may be referred to a Governors' Disciplinary panel.

The school will inform the police of any drugs related investigation and will hand over any illegal substances / paraphernalia to the police for safe disposal, as requested.

Where it has been brought to the attention of the school that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug the school reserves the right to deal with this as an internal disciplinary matter.

Any student who is caught in possession of drugs paraphernalia will be dealt with as outlined above and places himself at risk of either fixed term or permanent exclusion from school.

Solvents, Alcohol and Tobacco

The consumption of Solvents, Alcohol and / or tobacco on school premises is not acceptable. The school's position reflects the fact that these substances are significant causes of preventable premature death and ill-health in society. The consumption of these substances can be habit forming and constitute anti-social behaviour. Under legislation, it is an offence for children under 18 years to purchase these products.

As with illegal drugs, the school will educate students on the immediate and long-term risks associated with the consumption of solvents, aerosols, gases, nitrites, alcohol and tobacco. Where appropriate, support and professional advice will be provided to students who want to 'give up'.

Inhaling solvents, or being in possession of solvents with the intention of using in school or when under the school's authority is prohibited. Students found in possession of solvents or consuming it whilst in school or under the authority of the school can expect to be excluded from school.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol in school or when under the school's authority is prohibited. Students found in possession of alcohol or consuming it whilst in school or under the authority of the school can expect to be excluded from school.

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco (including e-cigarettes), is prohibited. Please refer to the school's policy on smoking for further information and guidance.

The school will provide comprehensive education and guidance to students through the PSHCE and wider curriculum. The purpose of this guidance is to make students aware of what drugs exist and the short and long term risks associated with consuming them. Students should be well prepared to make informed decisions about the consumption of drugs and other harmful substances.

Help and Support

The School expectations make it perfectly clear that the possession and supply of non-prescribed drugs on the School site is a very serious matter which in the majority of cases will lead to the exclusion of the pupil(s) involved. However, the School's primary concern is to the pupil and their welfare and to the welfare of the School community as a whole. Any student who is genuinely seeking help on a drugs related matter will be supported in a non-disciplinary manner. The pupil will be given support and guidance and the information disclosed will be dealt with in the appropriate manner, taking into account any safeguarding implications that may arise. It may be the case that information needs to be shared with other professionals so that appropriate help can be gained for the pupil concerned. The pupils can approach any member of staff for support in this area. In cases where students refer themselves, at the discretion of the Headmaster, we may offer our students the opportunity to reform his habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling.

If a pupil is found to be under the influence of drugs on the School site then our immediate priority is the safety and medical treatment for that pupil. Once again the school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy may come into effect.

Parents and carers under the influence of drugs

If a parent or carer is found to be under the influence of drugs on the School site such that a member of staff feels they are a risk to the pupils they must be asked to leave. If a parent or carer is around pupils from the School away from site the member of staff must act in the best interests of the pupils and remove the pupils from the situation and if possible ask the parent or carer to leave. The School's Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures may come into use in these circumstances. It may also be appropriate to suggest agencies that may be able to help.

Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of stakeholders within the school community in relation to the application of this policy are outlined below:

Students

- To make positive decisions about drugs and other harmful substances, always respecting, themselves, others and the school environment.
- To engage positively with the curriculum to learn about drugs and other harmful substances and the risks associated with their consumption.
- To inform a responsible adult if they suspect that drugs, solvents, alcohol and / or are being consumed or brought onto the school premises.
- To allow the school to offer help, inform a responsible adult if they have concerns about their own health / welfare or that of one of their peers.

Teaching and Support Staff

- For those with responsibility for the organisation of the curriculum to ensure that the aspects of the curriculum relating to drugs and other harmful substances are well planned and that effective resources are provided to those responsible for teaching the curriculum content. Where appropriate, this may include engaging outside agencies to deliver aspects of the curriculum.
- To inform the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team if they have concerns or suspicions about drugs related behaviour.
- To act as excellent role models to the students at all times.
- To listen to any student who makes a disclosure about drugs related incidents and immediately inform either the Headteacher or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year and PSHCE coordinator

- To oversee the implementation of this policy.
- To organise appropriate training for staff to ensure they confidently teach the PSHCE curriculum content associated with drugs and other harmful substances.
- To investigate any drugs related incident in accordance with the protocols outlined above.
- To inform the Governing Body and any relevant external organisations of drugs related incidents that have been investigated.

Parents

- To work in partnership with the school by reinforcing the material and messages taught to students through the PSHCE and wider curriculum regarding drugs and other harmful substances.
- To support the school in its investigation of any drugs related incidents that may involve their child(ren).

Governing Body

- To approve and monitor the implementation of this policy.