

Bishop Barrington School Whole School Drugs Policy

PART 1 Policy Statement

As a school, Bishop Barrington is wholeheartedly committed to the health and safety of its members and will take the action necessary to safeguard their well being. It is aware of its need to play its part in helping pupils meet the challenges of childhood, adolescence and adult life, which is the basis of this policy.

Rationale

We believe that we have a duty to educate our students on the harms and consequences of drugs use and abuse. We will take a pro-active stance on this to ensure that every pupil is able to succeed and enjoy their life to the full.

The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and staff, and through the ethos of the school, will seek to support those in need.

The school also practices the principle of sharing responsibility for the education of its students with parents. This is realised by involving and informing parents wherever possible.

Objectives

- ✘ To show the school's commitment in preventing drug misuse.
- ✘ To provide an effective framework for drug & alcohol education within the school.
- ✘ To ensure that the school provides the best pastoral care for those involved.
- ✘ To create an effective management tool for handling drug related incidents
- ✘ To enable staff, students and parents to clearly understand the school's position on drugs.

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PART 2

Definitions

In this policy the term 'drugs' means any substances that change the way that the body or mind work.

Under this definition, drugs include:

- ✘ Illegal drugs (e.g. Cannabis, Ecstasy etc)
- ✘ Medicines (prescribed or un-prescribed)
- ✘ Alcohol (alcoholic drinks)
- ✘ Solvents (Spray cans, aerosols etc)
- ✘ Volatile substances (any inhalant)
- ✘ Tobacco (cigarettes etc)

It is worth noting that whilst all medicines are drugs, not all drugs are medicines. The school also acts under the principle that medicines are good for one person at one time for one condition. Any medicines used incorrectly have the potential to cause harm, and it is to prevent this that this policy sees any usage of medicines not prescribed for that individual as drug abuse.

To avoid any confusion regarding prescribed medication from doctors, or occasional medication from parents, please refer to the school policy regarding bringing prescribed medication to school.

Who the Policy applies to

This policy applies to all personnel studying or working with the school grounds. This includes those employed by outside agencies.

This decision follows the school's ethos that 'every child matters' and that every member of the school has the right to be safe from exposure to potentially harmful situations.

For this policy, all staff refers to:

- ☒ Staff members
- ☒ Supply Staff
- ☒ Pupils
- ☒ Volunteers
- ☒ Contractors
- ☒ Visitors
- ☒ Parents/Guardians
- ☒ Governors
- ☒ Site Staff (including Cleaning Staff)

This policy also extends to any school or school affiliated trip in which pupils are taken off the school grounds. Members of staff accompanying pupils on such visits are required to uphold this policy and are to refer to the School's policy for taking pupils off site for further information about this.

PART 3

Drug & Alcohol Education within the School

The school, through the taught curriculum and through the opportunities for extra-curricular activities will try to achieve the following:

- ☒ To enable to students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills to aid this
- ☒ To provide accurate information about drugs, their abuse (for range of drugs covered see Part 2 – 'Definitions') and the Law.
- ☒ To increase understanding about the health implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse
- ☒ To widen understanding about the related social issues surrounding drug misuse
- ☒ To enable students to identify and feel confident to use appropriate sources of personal support
- ☒ To take into account not only the facts, but to address the effects of substance misuse upon the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical development of a young person.

The school follows the suggested National Curriculum guidelines on the delivery of drugs education.

Drugs Education is planned and delivered through the Personal Development Curriculum which is co-ordinated by the Leader of Personal Development. Personal Development is delivered at both key stages.

Whilst the issues are taught mainly through the Personal Development Curriculum, the school recognises the importance of the work done in other subject areas such as Science and PE in raising awareness regarding the issues covered in this policy. It also hopes that such issues may be raised indirectly through subjects such as English, History etc.

The school also actively participates where possible, in engaging outside agencies to deliver its programme of drugs education to enhance the delivery of drugs education within the school.

Examples of topics covered in KS3 & KS4 include:

- What are drugs?
- Why do people take drugs?
- What are the short and long term effects of taking drugs?

For more detailed information, please see Personal Development Schemes of Work.

Staff and Drugs Education

All drug related incidents and CPD in this area will be monitored by the Assistant Head – Aspirations, Attitude & Behaviour.

PART 4

The Management of Drug-related Incidents with the School

Drug-related incidents include the possession or use of any 'drug' described in this policy on the school grounds or premises.

The school distinguishes between the potential harm caused by the possessions of substances banned under the Law, and those which are legal for those over the age of 16.

Whilst the school does not wish to underestimate the seriousness of legal drugs such as cigarettes and alcohol, it does see a need for a differentiated approach.

In the event of a drug related incident occurring, please follow the guidelines:

- (a) Management of situations involving drugs legal to those over 16/18yrs
- (b)

This part of the policy relates to pupils who are caught in possession of, or using, cigarettes or alcohol.

The school recognises the legal situation with regard to smoking in public places, and it is because of this that the school does not tolerate smoking on the school premises by either staff or pupils at any time.

Should any pupil be found using or possessing cigarettes or alcohol within the school grounds, please follow the procedure below:

1. Escort the pupil along with any confiscated items immediately to the Deputy Head – Aspirations, Attitude and Behaviour. Should this person be unavailable, another member of the SLT must be found and details given about what has occurred.
2. A suitable sanction will then be given (e.g. isolation etc).

(b) Management of situations involving illegal drugs

The school takes a zero tolerance stance upon illegal drugs being found within the school premises. Should this situation occur, the following procedure should be adhered to:

1. Escort the pupil along with any confiscated items immediately to the Deputy Head – Aspirations, Attitude and Behaviour. Should this person be unavailable, another member of the SLT must be found and details given about what has occurred.

Please note that at this time you should not attempt to search any property (e.g. bags) which the pupils may have on their person until a member of the SLT is present.

2. The Assistant Head -Aspirations, Attitudes and Behaviour (or appropriate member of SLT) will contact the police to report the nature of the incident.
3. Advice will be taken from the Police regarding next steps and whether parents should be informed.

Please note that as the school exercises a zero tolerance policy with regard to illegal drugs, permanent exclusions may be considered as a suitable sanction.

Recording & Monitoring Systems for Drug-related Incidents

The school will record and monitor any incidents which occur involving all drugs (legal and illegal) found on the school premises.

The Assistant Head – Aspirations, Attitudes and Behaviour has the responsibility of logging all incidents which are of a drug related nature which happen in school.

PART 5

Communications

The School wishes to ensure that this policy is effectively communicated to all whom it involves. It is beneficial to the whole school if every person involved in school life is aware of our zero tolerance with regard to drugs.

Should any media enquires due to a drug related incident be received, these will be addressed by the Headteacher.

All appropriate staff who require knowledge of this content of this policy will learn of it through the 'policies' section of the school intranet.

PART 6

Monitoring and Evaluation of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed the Leader of Personal Development. Regular monitoring will occur and changes made if necessary.

The monitoring of the drugs education with the school (including content, provision and delivery) will be done by the Leader of Personal Development.

Policy approved by Governors on 21st June 2010 (SRC Committee)

Policy review date Autumn Term 2012