

DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Non Sibi Sed Aliis

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119, vs

“No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it. **1 Corinthians 10:13**”

This policy document and the content contained therein remains the responsibility of the Headteacher and Governing Body of the school. No amendments can be made without their express instructions and they remain the final arbiters in any matters relating to it.

Review Date: Spring Term 2024

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Reviewed By: Mrs A Wilson

APPROVED BY THE HEADTEACHER – Spring Term 2024

DRUG EDUCATION/DRUG POLICY

ETHOS OF BALSHAW'S

The philosophy of the school is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all students are enabled to develop their learning, social, emotional and personal skills. In this way we are carefully preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives and this policy has been written in accordance with this philosophy.

RATIONALE

- It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects. The school believes that drug education is an educational entitlement of all students, in line with the government guidance set out for all schools by the DFE. This Drug Policy, developed through consultation, makes clear the school's response to all drug issues.

PRINCIPLES

- To provide opportunities, through a planned drug education programme in PSHE, for all students to acquire knowledge and understanding about the effects and risks of drugs. Drug education refers to medicines, tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances and anabolic steroids as well as to illegal drugs.
- * To help students to develop the confidence and skills to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.
- * The school is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. Misuse of drugs is thus never condoned.
- * The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade students in need of support to come forward.
- * To help any students who are misusing drugs or who have concerns about the misuse of drugs to receive appropriate support, for drug education also has this role in reducing the risks associated with drug use, reducing the amount of drugs used and in helping people to stop.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol & tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter & prescription medicines.

Aims of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

Policy background

This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines and been informed by relevant research data.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. See separate Policy

Alcohol

- If a student is found in possession of alcohol then this should be confiscated and passed on to Head of House or SLT, who will follow the matter up.
- Suspicions that a student is in possession of alcohol or is under the influence of alcohol should be passed on immediately to Head of House or SLT for further investigation.
- The parent will be informed and the matter followed through as appropriate to the individual circumstances. Parents will be informed of an appropriate punishment through time spent in the school's inclusion unit.
- The school has the right to confiscate items of alcohol. School has the right not to return such confiscated substances. However, the materials can be returned to the parent, if the parent requests this, but not directly to the student.
- No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Students and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children

Smoking

- The school is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches, lighters or any item of e-cigarette paraphernalia. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated, parents informed and a sanction applied. This will normally be one day in the school Inclusion Unit.
- Suspicions that a student is in possession of tobacco or other tobacco smoking materials (including electronic cigarettes) should be passed on to Head of House or SLT for further investigation.

- The school sends a letter to the parent to inform them of any incident of tobacco smoking materials confiscated from their child. The school has the right to confiscate items of tobacco or tobacco related objects (including electronic cigarettes). School has the right not to return such confiscated substances. However, the materials can be returned to the parent, if the parent requests this, but not directly to the student.
- Any student found smoking tobacco or electronic cigarettes in school or on the way to or from school in school uniform will be dealt with by the school's disciplinary procedure. It is made clear to parents that such behaviour will lead to the use of the school's Inclusion facility at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Illegal drugs

- The school aims to work within the guidance on illegal drug issues which has been published by Government and also any additional guidance offered by the LEA.
- No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises
- Over recent years the school has worked to develop its cooperative relationship with the local police.
- A member of staff should confiscate a suspected illegal drug, preferably in the presence of another adult. Any illegal drugs found will be passed immediately to a senior member of staff, who will seal them into a labelled envelope including the date and time of the seizure/find, record any witnesses present and notify the local police and arrange for their collection with as little delay as possible.
- The confiscated item will be held in a secure location, such as the school safe or other lockable container with access limited to two members of SLT. The student's parents will be informed as soon as possible, particularly if the student is likely to be arrested from school.
- Any student found in possession of an illegal drug of Class A or B will be subject to a permanent suspension except in very exceptional circumstances where a fixed term suspension may be applied. If exceptional circumstances apply, the child will be required as part of the reintegration process to address the issue of any help being required by the student / parent in dealing with the drug use will be addressed. If so a CAF may be completed or referral to outside agencies e.g.: Young Addaction.
- Where, following police investigation, the matter is more serious e.g. supplying drugs, then the Headteacher will work with the police and with parents to ensure that suitable sanctions, both in and out of school, are applied to the perpetrator. In line with the policies of other South Ribble schools, this will warrant permanent suspension.
- A full record will be kept of any incident.
- The parent will be informed and the matter followed through as appropriate to the individual.

Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of sniffable products with the intention of misuse.

STAFF GUIDELINES – MANAGING DRUG ISSUES & INCIDENTS

The possession, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs within school boundaries is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance as outlined in the Right Responses. A member of the SLT – Deputy Headteacher Pastoral will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Evidence of drug use or possession in school will result in permanent suspension and will be in accordance with DCSF guidance on suspensions. A case conference will be called if necessary. Each case will be assessed and in exceptional circumstances levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement – for example if a student was made to hold drugs under duress from another student. The Headteacher's decision is final.

Below are the agreed procedures for managing drug incidents:

For any drug incident, the first priority is safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help.

- Staff at school have the power to search students and students' property without consent for prohibited items with a member of staff to witness the search.
- The only reason to avoid involving the student's parent would be if this was likely to jeopardise the student's safety. In such a case it would be necessary to follow through the matter as a possible Child Protection issue and record it as a Section 47 referral to CSC.

Situation where there are concerns about possible drug misuse by a student but there is no firm information to that effect:

The following concerning behaviours may be symptomatic of drug misuse BUT may also indicate other problems the young person is experiencing. At this stage the student should not be confronted. Staff will be careful not to jump to conclusions.

- Unusual outbreaks of temper and other changes in character.
- Loss of appetite.
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home and/or that there are changes in behaviour.
- Changes in punctuality and attendance pattern.
- Decline in willingness to participate in school activities. Loss of interest in hobbies, friends.
- Noticeable difference in the availability of money.
- Theft of money and goods.
- Increasing evidence of lying or other furtive behaviour.
- Lack of co-ordination and concentration.
- Uncharacteristically drowsy/sleepy.
- Fluctuations in emotional state from elation to depression.
- Inflammation of the eye and marks around the nose and mouth.
- Smells which may be indicative of solvent abuse.
- Changes in behaviour after break/lunch.
- Circumstantial evidence that may be linked to misuse of drugs e.g. remains of cigarettes with small cardboard tube filter, scorched pieces of tin foil.

If a problem behaviour is observed which may link to drug misuse staff should:

- Observe carefully but do not confront the student.
- Pass on observations at an early stage to Deputy Head and Head of House. They will work together to co-ordinate further observations and further action if required.
- **Other drug issues:** These could include: Concerns about the situation of a student whose parent / carer / family member misuses drugs.
- Concerns that a student is misusing drugs when not in school. A problem manifested as substance abuse may be a symptom of some other deeper difficulty rather than fully constitute the problem itself.
- Pass on information at an early stage to Deputy Head and Head of House. They will work together to co-ordinate further action if required e.g. Child Protection, Young Carers, Young Addaction.

If a student discloses drug misuse:

- If this happens in the classroom avoid any confrontational situation but refer the matter at an early stage to Head of House, who will inform the Deputy Head if there is any ground for further concern/enquiry.
- In private discussion with students staff should not make blanket promises of confidentiality as this may lead to a conflict with their legal obligations.
- If a student discloses drug misuse, by either themselves or by others, staff should obtain support from the Deputy Head, who will seek further advice as needed and inform the Headteacher. Parents will be informed if there is clear cause for concern regarding possible drug misuse by their child.

Support for students

At Balshaw's the welfare of all students is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable students to continue to benefit from continued education are preferable to suspension. Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to

students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral. If the drug misuse takes place in school then permanent suspension will be made, except in very exceptional circumstances. This will be considered on a case by case basis and is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

Confidentiality:

In managing drug issues, as in any other matter in school, teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality should be made clear to students. The limits are where teachers must fulfil their professional responsibilities in relation to:

- Child protection
- Co-operating with police investigation
- Referral to external services

Where disclosed information of a sensitive nature must be passed on it is desirable that, if possible, it is made clear to the student why and how this is to be done.

Roles and responsibilities

The Headteacher will ensure that:

- the SLT is appointed to have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.
- a planned drug education programme is provided as part of the curriculum, that enhances knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills.
- teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents.
- students are aware of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them.
- clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents. Those students who have a concern about drugs are provided with support.
- sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's discipline policy.
- the school actively co-operates with external agencies to deliver its commitment to drugs education.

All Staff are expected to:

- report incidents of drug misuse to a member of the SLT and HOH
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

All Teachers are expected to:

- implement the drug education programme and attend associated training to increase their understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising personal skills to resist peer group pressure, and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse.

- provide accurate information about substances.
- widen their own and the students' understanding of related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS.

Students will be expected to:

- follow all the school rules.
- alert the staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site.
- accept any form of sanction applied by the school for a drug related misdemeanour.

Parents will be encouraged to:

- endorse the school's approach to drugs education
- work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs.
- support the school in applying any form of sanction applied by the school for a drug related misdemeanour for their child.

The Governing Body will ensure that:

- the school does not knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production, consumption or supply of any controlled drug in addition to solvents, alcohol and tobacco.
- the school, parents and external agencies work together to support any student involved in drug abuse
- the governors' Discipline Committee understands how to deal with drug-related suspension procedures.

Working with the Police

The Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral) or in her absence a member of SLT who is responsible for the school's drugs policy will liaise with the police and agree a shared approach to dealing with drug-related incidents should it become relevant.

Monitoring and evaluation

The Governing Body will receive an annual report on:

- the curriculum programme for teaching about drugs,
- the number and nature of drug-related incidents, and the outcomes of any disciplinary proceedings.
- These will be analysed by gender, ethnicity and year group and compared with previous years.

CURRICULUM - GUIDELINES FOR DELIVERING DRUG EDUCATION

As it is expected that drug education will begin in primary school, the aim is to ensure continuity and progression, revisiting aspects as appropriate to student age and maturity.

Drug education is a formal part of the school's Personal, Social and Health Education Syllabus and as such is taught to all students. The course is reviewed each year. Focus is always given to whether the curriculum remains appropriate to students' ages, ability and levels of maturity in light of the changing drugs scene both nationally and locally.

- * In year 7 students explore skills and strategies to manage peer influence, make responsible decisions and manage situations in relation to drugs, alcohol, nicotine, vaping, energy drinks and caffeine.
- * In year 8 students develop their knowledge and skills and extend their learning to explore the laws surrounding drug and alcohol related issues.
- * In year 9 the work reinforces strategies to manage peer pressure to engage in drug and alcohol misuse. It extends to evaluate attitudes, social norms and the correlation between drug and alcohol misuse, relationship and mental health issues and antisocial or criminal behaviour.
- * In year 10 the learning on the impact and consequences of drug and alcohol use on relationships, physical and mental health, life chances and personal safety is developed and extended.
- * In year 11 students explore the impact of drug and alcohol use on fertility, pregnancy and wider physical health e.g. susceptibility to develop other health issues. It also covers how to access smoking cessation and screening services.
- * PSHE teachers discuss work so that expertise can be shared. Any health / other professionals involved in delivering the Drug and alcohol education programme in the classroom situation are expected to work within the school's policies.
- * In addition there is content linked to drug and alcohol education found within National Curriculum subjects e.g Key Stage 3 Science and Key Stage 4 PE and Sports Science which also includes the effects and consequences of performance enhancing drugs.
- * Some aspects may also be linked to drugs and alcohol in Drama (role play).
- * Teaching methods are varied. Case studies with invented characters and the use of appropriate videos and role plays can all be ways of acceptably discussing sensitive issues in a safe environment, allowing attitudes to be explored and stereotypes to be challenged. Discussion may be in small groups or in the full class. Staff are encouraged to initially establish ground rules for discussion within the groups, with a strong emphasis on acceptance of differences in group members' circumstances and respect for individuals' rights to privacy.
- * Links between drugs and other areas of PSHE, such as emotional health and sex and relationships education, are also made (e.g. use of drugs, especially alcohol, can impact on relationships and on sexual activity and sexual health).
- * The school works in partnership with local health and support services, for example Health Promotion specialists, the school nursing service and the Youth Service.
- * Health professionals, when they are in their professional role, such as a member of the school nursing service in a consultation with an individual student, will follow their own professional codes of conduct.
- * The school aims to work in partnership with parents to keep them fully informed via the school website.
- * The school operates a smoke free environment, acknowledging that smoking is the UK's greatest cause of preventable illness and early death. Smoking by staff and visitors to the school is currently prohibited on any area of school grounds.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - List of Relevant Drugs

Illegal drugs include:

Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Cannabis (any form e.g. hash, grass, pot, marijuana, dope, oil) Ketamine, Ecstasy / MDMA, Cocaine, Crack, Hallucinogens: natural, Hallucinogens: synthetic Heroin, Opiates, Muscle-building steroids, Methedrone (Miaow Miaow) Tranquillisers

Class A

Ecstasy

LSD

Heroin

Cocaine

Crack

Magic Mushrooms

**Amphetamines (if
prepared for injection)**

Class B

Cannabis

Synthetic Cannabinoids

Amphetamines

Class C

Tranquilisers

Some Painkillers

Gamma Hydroxybutyrate (GHB)

Ketamine

Pholcodine

Class A, B and C drugs are termed as controlled substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, with Class A being those considered most harmful.

Legal drugs include:

Alcohol, Prescription drugs, Solvents, Tobacco, Poppers

Appendix 2

RELEVANT DOCUMENTS

[DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools GOV.UK](#)

School-based alcohol and drug education and prevention – what works? [mentor-adepis.org](#)

Useful Organisations

We are with you provides free, confidential support to people experiencing issues with drugs, alcohol or mental health. Includes a directory of local services and providers.

Website: www.wearewithyou.org.uk

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

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK is a leading UK alcohol charity working 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.

Website: www.alcoholchange.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Website: www.ash.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.

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 (weekdays 9am–8pm, weekends 11am–4pm)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: <http://www.drugeducationforum.com/>

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

Website: www.talktofrank.com

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

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.

Website: <http://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.

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044 (Mon-Fri 9am-8pm; Weekends 11am-4pm)

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.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>