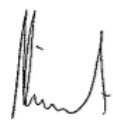




The Bridge Short Stay School

DRUG POLICY

Lead responsibility for policy	A Stewart Date: September 2020
Approved (Head Teacher)	 Date: September 2020
Date policy due for renewal	September 2021

Drug Policy

Introduction

This Policy outlines the overarching approach of The Bridge Short Stay School to drugs amongst members of the school community. It recognises the increasing prevalence of drugs within society and outlines the approach that the school will take to minimise risks to all members of the community.

The policy outlines the proactive and educational approach that is taken to prevent substance misuse and also the school response to drug related incidents. It recognises that the possession, supply or use of drugs within the school context is wholly unacceptable whilst also acknowledging that this may be an indicator of greater vulnerabilities and highlighting the need of the school to safeguard all students.

Policy Development

This policy has been developed in line with best practice guidance: "DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools" (September 2012); parents and students have also been consulted during the development phase.

Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read in context of the following policies and documents

- Curriculum Policy (PSHE & Science)
- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Health & Safety Policy
- Administering Medicines Policy
- Screening, Searching and Confiscation Policy
- First Aid Policy

Purpose

Implementation of this policy is intended to:

- Ensure the Health & Safety of all members of the school community
- Educate students of the potential risks of drug use
- Ensure students involved in substance misuse obtain adequate pastoral support
- Ensure that it is recognised that substance misuse may be symptomatic of other vulnerabilities and an indication that a student is in need of greater levels of multi-agency support
- Recognise that substance misuse within families or the wider community can impact upon students in school

Application

This policy applies to all school staff, students, parents/carers, members of the management committee, partner agencies and visitors within the school. It is applicable on the school premises of all school sites; on school trips or visits (including overnight on residential visits); when working with individual or groups of students off-site and whilst travelling to and from school.

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy the following definitions apply:

Drug: any substance taken to change the way people feel, think or behave. This includes all illegal drugs; but also legal substances including alcohol, over-the-counter and prescription drugs and novel psychoactive substances

Unauthorised drug: any drug which isn't permitted by the school. At The Bridge Short Stay School this applies to any drug not administered by the school for medicinal purposes. In all instances use of prescription and over-the-counter drugs should be administered and monitored in line with the administering medicines policy

Drug-related incident: evidence of suspicion of an event involving one or more unauthorised drugs and requiring a response by school staff

Drug-related paraphernalia: possessions which are believed to be for the purpose of facilitating drug usage e.g. cannabis grinder

The School's Stance Towards Drugs

The Bridge Short Stay School is clear that illegal and unauthorised drugs are not acceptable within the school. In responding to drug related incidents the first priority will always be to ensure the health and safety of the whole school community.

The school seeks to take a proactive approach to minimising drug use amongst students. All students are educated in the risks of drug taking as part of the PSHE and Science curricula. This is supplemented at times by guest speakers and workshops that are approved by SLT. Early support is sought through Cheshire West and Chester commissioned services for students who disclose involvement in drugs.

Whilst the response to drug-related incidents involving students may involve the application of the school behaviour policy it is also recognised that this may be an indicator of wider vulnerabilities for a student. The Designated Safeguarding Lead will be informed of all drug-related incidents; pastoral and safeguarding support will be put in place alongside any disciplinary sanctions.

Management of Drugs and Drug Related Incidents

For an overview of response to different categories of drug-related incident please refer to the flow chart in appendix 1.

In all instances of a drug related concern any information should be passed on to the student behaviour co-ordinator, or in their absence a member of SLT, who will co-ordinate actions in line with this policy. This will then ensure that there is a consistent approach and all actions are followed through without duplication or omission.

The incident co-ordinator will either take responsibility for discussing with students any suspicions that have been raised, or delegate this to another identified member of staff. This will then allow all other staff to maintain focus on their normal responsibilities.

All staff with information relevant to a drug-related incident should record this fully on CPOMS within 24hours.

Categories of Drug-Related Incident

Drugs or Drug Related Paraphernalia Found on School Site

- On finding drugs, drug related paraphernalia (other than needles) or unknown substances on the school site, these should be immediately removed, stored securely with details recorded of what has been stored. On finding needles on the school site, a member of SLT should be informed immediately who will arrange for the safe removal of these
- The Behaviour Coordinator, or in their absence a member of SLT should be contacted and informed of details of what has been found – this person will then either take or delegate the remainder of actions in responding to the incident
- The Behaviour Coordinator (or delegate) will investigate the source; if a student is identified as being responsible for bringing the item(s) onto site this will then be approached as for possession
- If items are identified as illegal or unidentifiable, Police to be informed to arrange for identification and disposal. If items are legal but unauthorised behaviour coordinator (or delegate) to arrange for their safe disposal. Details of removal to be recorded.
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hours

Student in possession of drugs or drug related paraphernalia

- If given reason to believe that a student is in possession of drugs or drug related paraphernalia the behaviour coordinator, or in their absence a member of SLT, should be informed with the reasons for suspicion – this person will then either take or delegate the remainder of actions in responding to the incident
- The behaviour coordinator (or their delegate) will investigate and speak to the student in question. Based on this a decision will be taken whether or not to search the student in line with the school screening, searching and confiscation policy. Details of all searches will be recorded.
- If no unauthorised items are found, the student will be returned to lessons, with ongoing monitoring for further suspicions

- If unauthorised items are found these should be immediately removed, stored securely with details recorded of what has been stored
- Parents will be informed at this stage, unless investigation has revealed that this would pose an additional safeguarding risk to that student
- Response will be made in line with behaviour policy, context of each individual situation will be taken into account but possession of illegal drugs will result in fixed term exclusion in most instances
- If items are identified as illegal or unidentifiable, Police to be informed to arrange for identification and disposal. If items are legal but unauthorised behaviour coordinator (or delegate) to arrange for their safe disposal. Details of removal to be recorded.
- Meeting with student, parents and other agencies as appropriate to be arranged on return to school
- Supportive measures put in place – additional pastoral support and referrals as appropriate to individual case
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hours

Student Supplying Unauthorised Drugs

- If given reason to believe that a student is supplying drugs the behaviour coordinator, or in their absence a member of SLT, should be informed with the reasons for suspicion – this person will then either take or delegate the remainder of actions in responding to the incident
- The behaviour coordinator (or their delegate) will investigate concerns and speak to the student in question. Based on this a decision will be taken whether or not to search the student in line with the school screening, searching and confiscation policy. Details of all searches will be recorded.
- If unauthorised items are found these should be immediately removed, stored securely with details recorded of what has been stored
- Concerns will be responded to in line with behaviour policy. Supply of drugs will normally lead to fixed term exclusion
- Parents; outside agencies involved with family and Police to be informed of incident
- If items are identified as illegal or unidentifiable, Police to be informed to arrange for identification and disposal. If items are legal but unauthorised behaviour coordinator (or delegate) to arrange for their safe disposal. Details of removal to be recorded.
- Meeting with student, parents and other agencies as appropriate to be arranged on return to school
- Supportive measures put in place – additional pastoral support and referrals as appropriate to individual case
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hours

Student Under the Influence of Drugs

- If given reason to believe that a student is under the influence of drugs the behaviour coordinator, or in their absence a member of SLT, should be informed with the reasons for suspicion – this person will then either take or delegate the remainder of actions in responding to the incident

- In the case of a Medical Emergency call for medical help and follow first aid procedures
- If there isn't a medical emergency the behaviour coordinator (or their delegate) will investigate and observe the student
- If, through the students behaviours, it is believed that they are under the influence contact will be made with parents to arrange for their safe return home on the basis of being unfit for school
- Meeting with student, parents and other agencies as appropriate to be arranged on return to school
- Supportive measures put in place – additional pastoral support and referrals as appropriate to individual case
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hours

Sale or Supply of Drugs in the School vicinity

- If concern is raised that drugs are being made available to students in the school vicinity, the designated safeguarding lead should be informed, giving all details
- The Safeguarding Lead will follow up, if concern relates to illegal drugs the Police will be informed. In cases of legal drugs e.g. alcohol/tobacco consideration will be given to informing local trading standards
- Supportive measures put in place – additional pastoral support and referrals as appropriate to individual case
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hours

Disclosure of Drug Use (Personal or Familial)

- If a student makes a disclosure of their own or familial drug use, responses should be in line with school Safeguarding Policy
- Designated Safeguarding Lead to be informed who will take responsibility for, or delegate further actions
- Information to be shared with outside agencies involved with the family
- Supportive measures put in place – additional pastoral support and referrals as appropriate to individual case
- All staff involved in incident to log information on CPOMS within 24 hour

The Role of the Management Committee

The Management Committee are responsible for monitoring the application of this policy, through termly safeguarding reports and through the Head teachers report of behaviour and exclusions.

Appendix 1: Responding to Drug Related Incidents

