



BLACON
HIGH SCHOOL

ASPIRE BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Drugs Policy

VISION STATEMENT

We want Blacon High School to be a safe and caring place at the heart of our community, where everyone is valued and supported to aspire, believe and achieve beyond their potential.

Ratified by Full Governing Body: 15th February 2023

Next due for review: February 2024

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1. Purpose, Scope & Context

This policy is consistent with the school's overall aims and ethos, safeguarding policy, and relates to the possession of drugs related equipment and the use or supply of drugs in school or on any school visit.

The school has a statutory duty to promote the wellbeing of students and this policy recognises the primary importance of keeping the school free from drugs in order to protect and promote the health, safety and wellbeing of students. The school will therefore protect the school community from the dangers of drug misuse through education and guidance, and by the appropriate management of drug-related incidents in school.

The policy is intended to align the school's practices with the legal requirements and guidance of the DfE and local authority.

1.1 Definition of Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave". Here, "drugs" and "drug education" is used to refer to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers) and new psychoactive drugs ('legal highs').
- All over-the-counter and prescription medicines.

The policy may also be applied to cover any substance that has any significant psychological or physical effect.

2. Aims

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and the whole school community.
- To clarify the school's approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community.
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- To clarify the procedures for responding to and managing any drug-related incidents that may occur so that they are managed with confidence and consistency and in the best interests of those involved.
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs and the drug education programme complement the values and ethos of the school.

- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.
- To reinforce the role of the school in contributing to local and national strategies.

3. Context

As part of their statutory duty to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse. The Drugs Education Policy has been developed with reference to Department for Education advice and guidance: DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) drug advice for schools (DfE-00001- 2012), which is non-statutory and was produced to help answer some of the most common questions raised by school staff in this area.

The drugs education of students takes into account the statutory requirements within the National Curriculum, the non-statutory framework for PSHE at Key Stages 3 and 4 and the statutory Citizenship Programme of Study at Key Stages 3 and 4.

Other related policies and documents include:

- Strategy, vision and values of the school.
- PSHE and Citizenship Policies
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- School Visits
- Supporting students with Medical Conditions
- School Code of Conduct (Core Principles)

4. Drugs on School Premises

These rules apply equally to staff, parents, students, volunteers, and visitors. The policy applies to the school premises, the school day, while travelling to and from school, journeys in school time or any school related activity, work experience, day and residential trips and when the school is deemed to be in loco parentis in line with the school Behaviour Policy.

Smoking, vaping, alcohol, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (including legal highs) and any related equipment is not permitted at any time on the school site or during any school related activities.

5. Prescription Medicines

Students are not permitted to be in possession of these substances on school grounds. Prescription medicines brought into school must be clearly labelled and handed into the school office during tutor time where they will be stored securely. These must be handled in line with the Supporting

Students with Medical Needs policy. Parents must contact school if they wish for their child to be allowed to take these medicines. Students with inhalers must keep them on their person at all times and are allowed to use these when necessary.

6. Confidentiality and Disclosure

Where there is any suspicion or disclosure of a student being involved in any drug related activities, parents/carers will be informed, the designated Safeguarding lead will be notified and referrals made to the most relevant agency to support (WDP Westminster Drug Partnership and Cheshire Police).

The school will seek to inform students through its drug education programme of the agencies that are available to help with drug-related problems and ensure that young people know which services give confidential advice.

The school will inform the Police of any drug related issues suspected on its premises.

7. Drugs Education

The school will provide drugs education within the school's provision of Personal, Social and Health Education, Citizenship, Science, Religious Education, Physical Education, SMSC and assemblies, ensuring that attention is given to the need for continuity progression, balance and relevance. This will be reviewed annually by the member of staff responsible for PSHE delivery across KS3 and KS4. This can be found within the PSHE policy.

8. Organisational Responsibilities

- The Assistant Head with responsibility for behaviour will be designated to lead on the management of drug related incidents and will oversee and coordinate drug issues, working closely with the Assistant Head with responsibility for safeguarding.
- Provide induction and drug awareness training arrangements for all staff working at the school and relevant governors.
- Provide specific continuing professional development opportunities for drug education for staff.
- Develop relationships with local partner agencies for supporting students and their families and agreed protocols for referral.
- Work together with local primary schools on the drug education curriculum, the management of incidents, training opportunities and transitions between schools.

9. Welfare of Staff

The school will follow the LA Policy on Drug and Alcohol Misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, the young people, other employees and the environment.

10. Dealing with the Media

The Headteacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media with appropriate guidance from the LA to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school.

11. Early Intervention

The school has a key role in identifying students at risk of drug misuse. The process of identifying needs should aim to distinguish between students who require general information, those who could benefit from targeted prevention, and those who require a detailed needs assessment and more intensive support.

12. Monitoring Students where Parent(s)/Carer(s) are Substance Misusers

The school will be alert to behaviour which might indicate that the student is experiencing difficult home circumstances. The Safeguarding policy will be applied in these situations.

13. Managing Drug Related Incidents in School

Defining a drug-related incident – drug-related incidents include any or all of the following:

- Drugs or drugs paraphernalia found on school premises;
- Students in possession of illegal or unauthorised drugs;
- Students supplying unauthorised or illegal drugs;
- Students under the influence of drugs, or exhibiting signs of intoxication or illness;
- Disclosure of drug use;
- Information which suggest student(s) are involved in substance misuse;
- Illegal sale/supply of drugs in school.

If there are any suspicions, observations, disclosures or discoveries of situations involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs:

1. Utmost priority will be placed on safety, meeting any medical emergencies with first aid and summoning appropriate help before addressing further issues. If in doubt, medical assistance will be sought immediately.
2. The Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher will be informed of the situation immediately.

3. Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher as soon as possible in order to determine the facts. The Headteacher will lead the investigation and allocate a key member of staff to conduct the investigation. The emphasis will be on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed or leading questions. All persons involved including staff and students will complete written statements which should be signed by the student and dated. Consideration will be given to separating any students involved in the incident and ensuring that a second adult witness is present.
4. The Headteacher or the Deputy Headteacher will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.
5. Where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent. Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93).
6. Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
7. After any search involving students, parents/carers will be contacted by the School at the earliest opportunity, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
8. Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in a security cupboard until it is handed over to the Police. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. In the majority of cases, parents will be notified immediately unless this is not in the best interests of the student.
9. A detailed record of the incident will be made by the Headteacher who will inform the Chair of Governors. A copy of the record will be kept by the Headteacher. There will be no other copies of the incidents.
10. The school will maintain vigilance about drug-related incidents in the local community through contact with Police and other relevant agencies.

13.1 Action taken will include:

- The priority will be to assess if there is an immediate health risk to any student and a need for medical intervention in accordance with the school's health & safety procedures.
- Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over voluntarily, in the

presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. Where the individual refuses, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent in accordance with the Education and Inspections Act 2006 (s93).

- Staff may search school property, for example, students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought. Individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.
- After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the school, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug and any drug related equipment, will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in the security cupboard.
- All persons involved including staff and students will complete written statements.
- A first aider will be involved wherever there is suspected danger to the health of the individual involved.
- In all cases where the possession or use of illegal drugs is involved or suspected the police will be informed.
- Record of any drug related offence will be kept on student files.
- Chair of Governors will be informed and all incidents will be reported to Governors in Headteacher's Report.

13.2 Incidents Involving Staff

If a member of staff is clearly under the influence of any drug then they will be asked to leave the site immediately. Consideration will be given to disciplinary procedures which may include contacting the Local Area Designated Officer for safeguarding (LADO).

Staff taking medication that they believe may affect their ability to care for children should seek medical advice. They should only work directly with children if the advice is that the medication is unlikely to impair their ability to look after children.

13.3 Incidents Involving Parents

If a member of staff has good reason to believe that a parent is under the influence of any drug when they drop off or collect their child then they have a duty to advise the Designated Safeguarding Teacher.

13.4 Incidents Involving Visitors

If a member of staff has good reason to believe that a visitor is under the influence of any drug then the visitor will be asked to leave the school site immediately. Should the visitor fail to comply with the request to leave the school will inform the police of the incident and seek their support.

14. Responses to Drug Related Incidents Involving Students

The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school's response will include both sanctions and counselling to reflect the individual nature and/or level of the offence and will involve support from outside agencies.

In the consideration of sanctions, the school will balance the interests of the young persons involved, the other students and the local community. The sanction imposed against students will be determined in the light of each individual event. The possession, being under the influence of, use or supply of drugs or illegal substances in school or on any school visit, will carry the risk of permanent exclusion, even if it is a first offence. The dealing and distribution of drugs on the school premises will result in permanent exclusion. Action will be at the discretion of the Headteacher.

While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, if an offence against the Misuse of Drugs Act is suspected or substantiated, it will be appropriate to consider contacting the police. If so, the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, will make the call.

If necessary, an urgent meeting will take place on the same day as the incident, or as soon as possible (between the Headteacher and appropriate member of SLT) in order to decide who should be informed. These may include parents/carers, the Education Access Team, SEN Team, Social Care and Police.

Responses and sanctions against students who commit drug offences will be decided following dialogue between the Headteacher, appropriate member(s) of staff, Drugs Liaison Officer and other appropriate colleagues.

Possible responses include:

- Targeted intervention
- Referral
- Counselling
- Behaviour support plans
- Inter-agency programmes
- Fixed-term exclusion
- Pastoral support programmes
- A managed move
- Permanent exclusion

The Governors maintain the right to direct a student to off-site provision in cases where behaviours or actions are in direct contravention of school policies under the 'Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) Regulations 2012 – as part of the Education Act 2002'.

Responses and sanctions will take into account:

- The seriousness of the incident

- The short and long term welfare of the student(s) concerned
- The short and long term welfare of other students
- Guidance in DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (DfE-00001-2012) consistency with published school rules, codes and expectations
- Consistency with disciplinary action for other drug related incidents
- Consistency with disciplinary action for other misdemeanours
- SEND Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

15. Role of the Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, governors have a key role to play in reviewing and monitoring this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually.