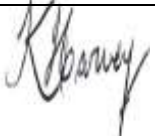
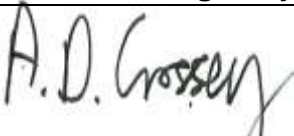


DRUGS & ALCOHOL POLICY



NAMED PERSON:	Emma Curtis
ATTACHED COMMITTEE:	

Last Review Date:	September 2023
Review Cycle:	2 Years
Next Review Date:	September 2025

Mr Keith Harvey Co Chairman of Governing Body	Mr Andy Crossey Co Chairman of Governing Body
Signed: 	Signed: 
Date: September 2023	Date: September 2023

Introduction

The policy is informed by DfE and ACPO drugs advice for schools.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf

The Buckingham School is committed to the health and safety of its staff and students and will take action to safeguard their well being. The school is well aware that young people's drug misuse may have a serious impact on their health, well being and academic achievement and to this end The Buckingham School has a part in reducing the risk. The school acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account. 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 exist.

The School does not condone the use of drugs or alcohol by staff or students of The Buckingham School, nor the illegal supply of those substances.

The objective of this policy is to show the School's commitment in preventing drug and alcohol misuse. This will be achieved by providing guidance on the provision of pastoral care for those involved, ensuring staff, students and parent/carers clearly understand the School's position on drugs and alcohol and to create an effective management tool for handling drug and alcohol related incidents.

The policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, governors and external agencies working within the school. The policy applies to all of the above when within the school boundaries, on educational visits or being educated at another provider (as arranged by the school). Where the document refers to drugs, this includes alcohol, tobacco, vapes, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances ("legal highs") and volatile substances, unless otherwise specified.

An authorised drug is a prescription medicine which needs to be taken during school hours by a student. Any other drug is unauthorised as is sharing/giving an authorised drug with/to someone else. Authorised drugs should be kept safe by the student or by the school's first aid coordinator who will oversee them according to the school's medicine's policy.

Definition of a Drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By drugs paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises 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. Please refer to our Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy

● Alcohol

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers 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. Parent/carers will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek medical support.

- **Smoking**

School premises are a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. 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 and parent/carers informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises could result in a suspension. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

- **Illegal drugs and "psychoactive substances"**

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises 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 solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

Drug and Alcohol Education

Drug and alcohol education will be provided to all students as part of the statutory PSHE program within the National Curriculum. The School delivers this through its Personal Development curriculum.

Other opportunities for drug and alcohol education, include the assembly program, the tutor program and enrichment opportunities.

HERE4YOUth referrals are available for all students and family workers where required and consent is given, (HERE4YOUth (Previously known as Switch is an alcohol and drug service working with young people across Buckinghamshire. Switch offers support and information, and helps young people to develop life skills to make healthy choices around their alcohol and drug use - choices that are important to them. HERE4YOUth also provides support and information for the families and carers of young people who are struggling with substance misuse.)

Prevention

We believe that knowledge is power and so we ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided throughout a student's time at The Buckingham School. We find input from external education agencies particularly useful and we aim to ensure that this is provided by approved agencies at regular intervals throughout their time at The Buckingham School. We also recognise the importance of training of staff and will make sure this is regular, up to date and context specific.

To support this, the Government's Drug Strategy 2017 ensures that school staff have the information, advice and power to:

- Provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information, including via the FRANK service;
- Tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- Work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse

The School will use Drug Detector and Screening dogs to educate and encourage students to make positive choices around bringing drugs into school and to reinforce the message that drugs are not acceptable on the school premises.

The Buckingham School will conduct searches if there is a suspicion that drugs are present on the premises.

In addition to controlled drugs/illegal substances, legal highs are also forbidden on school site due to the unpredictable nature of the ingredients and possible impacts this could have students and the community.

Drug-Related Incident

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
- Student reports of parent/carers, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamourising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

Drug-Related Incident Management

The Headteacher is responsible for co-ordinating the School's response to drug-related incidents.

An *incident* in relation to this statement can cover all manner of events. The type of incident will dictate the response required and the process to follow. Each incident will be considered individually, and a variety of responses will be necessary.

In response to drug-related incidents the School will balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take the School will follow their own behaviour for learning policy. Suspension is not our automatic response to a drug incident and we only permanently exclude in serious cases. More detail on excluding and suspending pupils can be found in the DfE Exclusion Guidance.

We recognise that drug use can be a symptom of other problems and we are ready to involve or refer pupils to other services when needed. The School regularly engages with youth and family support services available in their local area.

1. Finding drugs on the premises:

If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug or alcohol it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, HERE4YOUth, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

2. Students in possession of drugs or believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol:

(a) When a student is found on the premises under the influence, or suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol then the first priority will be the safety and welfare of the student immediately and then the community. Parents/carers will be contacted immediately. Police may also be contacted if it is felt there is a risk to others.

3. Possession or use of drugs away from the school premises

As outlined in the Behaviour in Schools Guidance 20223, schools have the power to sanction pupils for misbehaviour outside of the school premises to such an extent as is reasonable.

Conduct outside the school premises, including online conduct, that schools might sanction pupils for include misbehaviour:

- when taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity;
 - when travelling to or from school;
 - when wearing school uniform;
 - when in some other way identifiable as a pupil at the school;
 - that could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school;
 - that poses a threat to another pupil;
- or • that could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

4. Visitors & Intruders on the premise under the influence of drugs/alcohol

- (a) When a person who is not a member of the school, is found on the premises under the influence, or suspected of being under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol they will be asked to leave immediately.
- (b) If there is a risk to staff and students or anyone else present, the police will be called as a matter of urgency, the Schools safeguarding procedures will be followed.

5. Incidents involving members of staff are covered by the School's code of conduct policy.

6. Incidents involving parents/carers and other family members is covered in the School's safeguarding policy.

7. Searching students and their possessions

The Buckingham School reserves the right to search if they feel a student has drugs, weapons or prohibited items if they feel the safety of the community is under threat. The Headteacher can designate power to staff to search a student if they believe students are in possession of drugs. Students should therefore be requested to remove suspected items from their person, or possessions, for examination. If the student refuses and the case is of a serious nature, the police should be contacted with a request to attend the school to carry out a search. The member of staff must have reasonable suspicion that the student is in possession of a controlled substance and be able to communicate this to the police. The decision to contact the police will be made by the Headteacher, or in their absence the most senior member of staff present on the premises. Staff must then complete a search form.

The Buckingham School works closely with its Police Liaison Officers (Problem Solving Team). If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items and Restorative Justice Work, unless there are reasons why this should not be the case (for instance, serious safeguarding concerns). Parents and Carers will always be informed when the police are formally involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews. Similarly, the police will be involved if any student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of legal action, if any, should be taken.

Useful Organisations

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

Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk / Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change UK - works 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

Tel: 020 3907 8480 Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk / Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

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

Tel: 020 7404 0242 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk / Website: <http://ash.org.uk>

Children's Legal Centre - operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 714 650 (general queries only) Email: info@coramclc.org.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.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.

Tel: 020 7766 9900 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 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise - is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service.

DrugScope - also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk / Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

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 Email: frank@talktofrank.com ; Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 963 2751. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: <https://mentoruk.org.uk/>

National Children's Bureau - promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 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 parent/carers, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0808 800 2222

Website: www.familylives.org.uk

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) - A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parent/carers and young people. Text: 07496 959930

Information line: 01785 810762. Email: info@re-solv.org / Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044; Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative - offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.childrenssociety.org.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>