

Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School Policy



Substance Use and Misuse Policy

Authorised by Resolution of the Governing Body of the Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School Date: 13 th July 2022 Signature Effective date of the policy: 13 th July 2022 Review date of policy: July 2024 or earlier as required
--

This policy is written in the light of the school mission statement.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Discipline Policy.

Definition

A drug is any substance which, when taken, has the effect of altering the way we feel, see, think or act. "Drugs" include everyday substances, including items such as "over the counter" medicines (eg Paracetamol), prescribed drugs, solvents and glues, alcohol and tobacco, as well as illegal drugs covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, eg cannabis, ecstasy etc. In addition, under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1985, it is illegal for anyone to supply a substance if they know or believe that it will be inhaled by a person under 18. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, states it is an offence to produce, supply, possess with intent to supply any psychoactive substances (chemical substances that result in alterations to perception, mood, consciousness cognition and/or behaviour).

As a school we are likely to be concerned with issues related to the possession, supply or usage of the following:

- (a) Drugs covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act.
- (b) Prescription only medicines not being used in accordance with an officially issued prescription.
- (c) "Over the counter" remedies not being used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations, or improperly obtained.
- (d) Solvents and other volatile or intoxicating substances (including alcohol).
- (e) Anything which mimics smoking including E-cigarettes, 'vaping' and associated paraphernalia.

These items are not allowed on school premises.

Students occasionally obtain substances whose composition they do not know: such substances should never be brought into school. Consuming such substances is a grave risk to the safety of the individual, a risk that is made even worse if shared with others. Students engaging in this behaviour may be subject to the full range of sanctions, including permanent exclusion.

Curriculum

The School recognises its responsibility to offer a balanced education to all students in relation to all forms of drug use. The delivery of this education is through the PSHE curriculum, Curriculum Extension Days, assemblies, guest speakers and form time. Other external agencies such as the Police and the local Drugs Advisory Team will be used as appropriate.

Investigations

The school will investigate any and all suspected cases of substance use and misuse. (See Discipline Policy). The school may find it necessary to search a pupil's belongings if there is reasonable cause to do so. Such a search will be conducted in line with the Department of Education document Searching, screening and confiscation. Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies January 2018. See links:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/674416/Searching_screening_and_confiscation.pdf

[Searching screening and confiscation.pdf](#)

Policy

The use and/or misuse of drugs on school premises or on school trips is strictly forbidden.

BUCHS does not condone either the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the school, or the illegal supply of these substances.

The School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. All staff should ensure that the Headteacher (or in their absence the Deputy Headteacher) is informed of any incident and a written report should be made. The school will regularly follow up drug related incidents in order to monitor progress. As a general principle parents will always be notified of the school's concern over a drug related incident. The only exception to this is when the Headteacher feels that the welfare of the young person would be placed in greater jeopardy by this action, in which case, the DSL would be consulted. The Headteacher will report any drug-related incident to the Chair of Governors.

We acknowledge the importance of our 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.

BUCHS will actively co-operate with other agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The Roles of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies.

In instances involving substance misuse or supply on the premises, parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity by the Headteacher. In the case of supplying on the premises, the young person will be subject to the full range of sanctions permitted by the school. In the case of using or witnessing others using/supplying, and not reporting this fact, the young person will be subject to the full range of sanctions permitted by the school.

If the Headteacher has reasonable grounds to suspect that drugs are being used or supplied on school premises, they must inform the Police in order to avoid any liability as a “manager or occupier” of premises under S8 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. If the Police wish to interview a student the parents will be informed.

The Headteacher, alone, will take responsibility for liaison with the media, with the Deputy Headteacher or a nominated member of SLT deputised in the absence of the Headteacher.