

BRIDGEWATER HIGH SCHOOL

SUBSTANCE MIS-USE POLICY

Written by:	M Malam	Date	June 2021	Policy ref	A38
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Introduction

The Governors of Bridgewater High School are committed to ensuring that the School is healthy, free from the misuse of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other substances.

It is the responsibility of the school to play a positive role in preventing the harm drugs and alcohol can have both to students and in the local community.

It is our intention to provide a clear statement to all students and their families about the rules and protocols related to the possession or use of alcohol and drugs on the school grounds.

This policy is also a statement from the school to be alcohol and drug free.

This policy follows the guidance given in the document '*Drug Advice for Schools*' produced by Department of Education (DfE) and the Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO), 2010 (reviewed in 2013).

The policy was also agreed through the Warrington Drug & Alcohol Action Team Partnership which includes the local police and substance misuse services.

This policy links in to the Behaviour, Exclusion and RSE policies.

Statements and Procedures

Location and Dissemination

This policy will be available on request at the school office on each site.

The policy will also be readily available for parents and students to read on the schools website.

Students will be reminded of the policy annually in assemblies by the designated teachers.

Definitions

This policy refers to the use and supply of alcohol, illegal drugs, volatile substances (e.g. aerosols, solvents, glue, petrol), the misuse of prescription drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs).

Psychoactive substances (legal highs) have nationally become more popular and more readily available to young people in recent years. They are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs and are often packaged to appeal to young people. These drugs are not safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess.

The policy covers students, school staff, parents and other agencies visiting the school.

This policy refers to authorised staff. In this school this refers to the Designated Teachers for drug and substance mis-use: Duncan Morrison Lower Site and Mark Malam Upper Site.

Medicine's Policy

This is separate to the Drugs Policy and can be found on the school's web site.

Drug & alcohol education

Bridgewater High School is committed to educating all students to raise awareness of the dangers of alcohol and drugs. This is carried out as part of school's Personal Development & PSHE curriculum offer across all year groups and focuses on student safety and risk awareness. It includes sessions on but not limited to:

Making good decisions

Assessing the health risks and harms of consuming drugs, alcohol and tobacco

Pressures relating to drug use

How drugs and alcohol affect decision making

Exit strategies for dealing with potentially harmful situations

How and where to seek help for drug and alcohol misuse

The school also offers 'Risky Behaviour' assemblies/workshops. These include sessions relating to alcohol and drug use, exploring the pressure to use, the effects and emotional impact they can have. There will also be information about legalities and negative consequences.

The planning and delivery of the workshops will be a partnership process between the youth service, local sexual health services, drug & alcohol services, school nurse and the relevant school staff.

The teaching staff will have the opportunity to receive appropriate drug and alcohol awareness training via the free DAAT training programme. The Pastoral Team will receive regular updates from the Warrington Drug and Alcohol Team. If there is a particular problem it will be arranged for a youth worker to deliver a 'briefing session' to a staff group.

Confidentiality

If a student discloses alcohol or drug use in the classroom setting the teachers will respond to the information as the classroom is not a 'confidential environment' Pupils are told through PSHE and where sensitive matters are to be discussed that any disclosure which raises concerns of their safety will be passed on. This is the case for disclosure of any type relating to drugs, alcohol or substance mis-use.

Students will be informed of the confidentiality rules before any drug and alcohol education session.

If alcohol or drugs use is disclosed as part of a one to one session with either a school health nurse or a youth workers they will follow their professional confidentiality and safeguarding guidelines.

What is classed as an alcohol or drug related incident

A drug incident refers to the following circumstances

- Suspicion - if a teacher or other member of school staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting a student has involvement with alcohol or drug use.
- Observation - if a teacher or other member of staff observes intoxication, or witnesses the use of, or the supply of alcohol or drugs.
- Discovery - if unauthorised drugs or drug paraphernalia are found in a student's possession or on school grounds.

Detection

If a student has taken or is believed to have possibly taken drugs or alcohol in school or prior to school school's first aid procedures will be followed and parents will be informed.

There will be intermittent use of police dogs in Warrington schools. This measure is to deter drugs being brought into school and to detect drugs on individuals.

Management of alcohol or drugs incidents on school trips

The definition of an alcohol or drug incident will be the same as on school grounds.

The protocol for following up on these incidents will be the same as is detailed in the policy for incidents happening on school premises.

Protocol for an alcohol or drug incident.

There will be a strict protocol followed whenever there is a drug incident on school grounds. As follows -

Search & Confiscate

Bridgewater High School follows government guidance in regard to the searching of students and confiscation of possessions as outlined in DfE '*Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools 2018*'.

Headteachers (and staff authorised by them) the Designated Teacher or their deputy in their absence have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- any item that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence
- drug paraphernalia
- any item banned by the school rules which has been identified in the rules as an item which may be searched for.

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

Handling Illegal and Unauthorised Drugs and Drugs Paraphernalia

If during a search alcohol or volatile substances are found and confiscated they will be disposed of by the member of staff authorised to conduct the search.

If during a search suspected illegal drugs are found and confiscated they will be kept in the temporary possession of the school until they are handed over to the police for disposal.

If any drugs paraphernalia that are deemed to pose a health risk to other students (such as discarded syringes) are found these will be safely removed and disposed of.

Parents & Visitors

Any parent or person representing an outside agency who appears intoxicated on school premises will be asked to leave immediately. If they become aggressive or violent the police will be called immediately.

If any person involved in an alcohol or drug incident appears to be or becomes unwell, the schools will implement appropriate First Aid response.

Parent Notification

The parents or carers of any student involved with an alcohol or drug incident will be notified by phone on the day.

The Role of the Local Police

The police will be notified of any incident involving illegal drugs. School will contact police in regard to the disposal of any illegal drugs. School may liaise with the police to agree a shared approach to dealing with illegal drug related incidents. They will not automatically be involved in other incidents; this will be at the discretion of the school.

School's police point of contacts are:

PC Melissa Marsh-Croft (Warrington Youth Engagement Officer)

PC Michelle Adamson (local police link).

[Contact details are available on the last page.](#)

Alcohol & Drug Incident Records

The school will make and keep a full record of each incident which will be logged and stored on CPOMS. This will be stored in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998. (GDPR)

The report will cover the support offered to any student and their family. It will also include police involvement and the consequences of this.

Fixed Term & Permanent Exclusions

Schools may decide that some alcohol or drug incident warrants a temporary exclusion. The most serious incidents may result in permanent exclusions. See Behaviour Policy and Exclusion Policy.

Student and Family Support Plan

Bridgewater High School recognises that certain students may be more vulnerable to drug use and exposure to drug use than others. We recognise that drug use can be a symptom of other difficulties in a young person's life e.g. complex home lives & living with family members with a history of substance abuse. School will identify and monitor these students through the Vulnerable Pupils Register. Internal pastoral support may be offered and safeguarding staff will consider referral to other external services to ensure early support. This may include referral to Warrington's Early Help Drugs and Alcohol Youth Workers and/or Warrington's Family Support Service. It may, in some cases require referral to Children's Social Care.

Following any alcohol or drug incident the parents and carer will be asked to come into school to discuss an action plan. This will include measures to manage the risk of a student repeating the incident.

If the incident was part of a pattern of misbehaviour the school can decide to implement a Behaviour Support Plan.

It is advised that the student receives a session with the 'young person's substance misuse team' to be screened and given information advice and support. This may result in the young person becoming a client of the service. It may be decided that ongoing support with the school health service is more appropriate.

If it becomes apparent that the young person is being affected by parental or carer alcohol or drug use then the local safeguarding procedures will be put in place.

The parents can also ask to be referred into alcohol or drug services and this will be facilitated by the youth substance misuse worker.

Local Agencies and Key Contacts

Police:

PC Michele Adamson- Local Police named officer

Michelle.adamson@cheshire.pnn.police.uk 01606 364895

PC Michelle Marsh-Croft- Warrington Youth Engagement Officer

Melissa.Marsh-Croft@cheshire.pnn.police.uk 07717 328515

See also: National Police Chiefs Council publication: *Child Centred Policing 2021*

Warrington Young Person's Drug and Alcohol team:

Orford Youth Base, Capesthorpe Road, Orford, Warrington Tel: 01925 442440

Footsteps:

Helping you to cope with someone else's drug or alcohol misuse Tel: 01925 244524

FRANK:

National Drugs Helpline

0300 123 6600 <http://www.talktofrank.com/worried-about-a-child>

Warrington School Health Service

Tel: 01925 867831

Education Safeguarding Team

New Town House, Warrington

01925 442928/443179