



# Policy on Alcohol, Tobacco and Drug and Substance Education and Misuse

at

## Bedstone College

<b>Author</b>	WEM
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<b>Staff</b>	Head/Deputy Head Pastoral (DHP)
<b>Gov</b>	Chair (JPSF)

This policy is linked to the policies on Behaviour, Confiscation and Searching, Child Protection and The Curriculum.

The following criteria are addressed:

- NMS: Standard 3
- NMS: Standard 6
- NMS: Standard 11
- NMS: Standard 12

The following guidance has been taken into account:

- Drugs: Guidance for Schools DfES 0092/2004
- Drug Education – Including Alcohol and Tobacco (NHSS, 2003)
- The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/270169/drug\\_advice\\_for\\_schools.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf)

## **Part I: Aims**

1. The policy is designed to support School policy on Behaviour and Discipline and the School Rules.
2. This policy is designed to promote the health and well-being of staff and students at Bedstone College. In addition, it is designed to ensure that the School help meet its statutory obligations under legislation such as Part I of the Health Act 2006 and its wider obligations.
3. All students of Bedstone College must abide by this policy statement, the rules governing particular trips and visits and the laws and customs and the country they are visiting.

## **DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY**

The term 'drugs' refers to:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, see Appendix 2 and Appendix 3)
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled (e.g. Nitrous Oxide)), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites (known as poppers)
- All over the counter and prescription medicines

## **Part II: Alcohol**

4. Bedstone does not advocate a 'zero tolerance' approach to alcohol use. At the same time, however, School does aim to encourage a safe and responsible attitude to the consumption of alcohol.

### **The consumption of alcohol in School**

5. No student may drink or otherwise be in possession of alcohol intended either for personal use or the use of other Bedstone students in the following circumstances: (1) on the way to or from School; (2) at any event taking place at School; (3) at any time during the term session (if a boarder); and (3) at any event organised by School. In addition, no student may visit licensed premises during the School day (or at any time during the term session if a boarder).

Exceptions:

- (a) On Saturday evenings members of the Sixth form may use the 'Studies' which is licensed to sell alcohol. The consumption of alcohol is strictly controlled by the member of staff on duty. Alcohol will ONLY be served if a student has ordered a meal which is delivered by an external supplier.
- (b) On occasion, members of the Sixth Form may be invited out for a meal by members of staff; such occasions include Remembrance Day Service in Ludlow, Prefects' Meal, Garden Party etc. On these occasions, if in licensed premises, alcohol will only be purchased by the member of staff in charge and then only if food is also ordered. In all cases the consumption of alcohol is strictly controlled by members of staff.

### **The consumption of alcohol on School trips, visits, etc. and at events organised by the School**

- 6. Where it is expressly permitted by the visit/event organiser and the member of staff in charge, students may only consume alcohol with a meal. The quantity of alcohol they are permitted to consume must be appropriate to the age of the student(s) concerned and managed by the member of staff in charge.
- 7. On a School trip, visit, etc., students may only drink alcohol when supervised by a responsible adult and in appropriate public spaces.
- 8. In addition, students may only consume alcohol when consent has been obtained from their parents/guardians.
- 9. In cases where the proposed activity/event is a regular feature of the School's calendar (typical examples include: camps, foreign trips, educational visits in the UK, sports tours), the staff member(s) with overall responsibility for the activity must submit draft rules on the proposed use of alcohol to the Head for ratification. Where an exception to School policy is proposed, a full explanation must be *both* submitted and approved *in writing* prior to the final risk assessment and at least four weeks before the party leaves.
- 10. It is anticipated that almost all trips, visits, etc. will have a 'no alcohol' rule, whereas a very small number of others will permit safe and responsible drinking in keeping with the policy set out in this document. Consequently, all students (and their parents/guardians) must be made aware in writing of the *specific* rules that apply on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, parents must be given the opportunity to withhold permission for their son/daughter to consume alcohol where this is a relevant issue.

### **Educational issues**

11. The dangers of alcohol abuse are included in the School's PSHE programme and form part of the curriculum in both scientific and religious education. Further details are set out in paras 20-30 below.

### **Disciplinary framework**

12. A breach of Part II of this policy is likely to be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence and could lead to a student being permanently excluded (expelled) from the School.

### **Part III: Smoking**

13. Under no circumstances may Bedstone students smoke or otherwise be in possession of tobacco products/e-cigarettes/vapourisers: (1) on the way to or from School; (2) at any point during the school day; at any time during a term session (if a boarder); (3) at any event taking place at School; and (4) during any trip, visit, etc. organised by the School.

## **Educational issues**

14. The dangers of tobacco misuse are included in the School's PSHE programme and form part of the curriculum in both scientific and religious education. Further details are set out in paras 18-25 below.

## **Disciplinary framework**

15. A breach of Part III of this policy is likely to be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence and could lead to a student being permanently excluded (expelled) from the School.

The following procedures will be adopted when a student is found to have smoked. These procedures also apply to those who are 'in the company' of smokers where there is evidence to suggest that they were smoking:

In the College, while the precise details of the incident will properly influence our response the following pattern will serve as a framework when individual incidents arise. Each time a student is caught smoking irrespective of the other punishments a fine of £20 is levied (paid to the Bursary and then on to the Firefighters Charity).

1. For the first offence, a student should be verbally warned. The parents should be informed by a letter from the student's Houseparents and a behaviour referral form should be filled in and passed to the Deputy Head Pastoral who will ensure the incident record is filed in the correct places.
2. For the second offence, the same procedure should be followed as above. The parents should be informed by a letter from the student's Houseparents and a behaviour referral form should be filled in and passed to the Deputy Head Pastoral who will ensure the incident record is filed in the correct places. The letter from Houseparents should give a warning of what a third offence may involve.
3. For the third offence, parents will be informed and the student will be sent to Sister and treated, at their own expense, as being addicted. This will involve being put on a course of "nicorette" patches or the like.
4. For a fourth offence, the Head may decide to invite a student to leave the College.

## **Part IV: Drugs and Substance Abuse**

16. The principal aim of the School must be to attempt to prevent or to delay first experimentation. That goal is best achieved by a structured, multifaceted, cross-curricular programme of education, which continues throughout each student's school career.

17. The education programme should seek to inform and develop skills without glamorising or sensationalising.

## **Education for Students**

18. All students will take part in a structured PSHE programme, one element of which will focus on drugs and substance misuse.

19. All students will receive factual information about illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco during Biology and Chemistry lessons, where they will also consider some moral and social implications.

20. All students will be given the opportunity to consider the moral dimensions of drug misuse during Religious Studies lessons.

### **Education for staff and parents**

21. Every member of the academic staff and all student teachers will be made aware of this Policy.

22. Newly appointed teachers and student teachers attend a familiarisation session. The session covers the School Policy and practical issues relating to its implementation. Such sessions are advertised in the Staff Common Room and all staff are invited to attend.

23. Key members of the non-teaching staff are made aware of the procedure they should follow if they become aware of drug misuse.

24. Whenever students consider this policy during lesson time, copies will be sent home for parents. This policy is also posted on the School website and hard copies are available to parents at any time on request.

25. Practical advice is given when requested about what a parent should do and not do on discovering their child's drug use.

### **The disciplinary framework and process**

26. Students at Bedstone College must not be in possession of non-prescribed drugs. A note of guidance is made available to all members of the School community and to parents. It is also given to and discussed with students in Years 8-11, as part of the School's Personal, Social and Health Education Programme. It is attached as Appendix 1 of this policy.

27. The most serious disciplinary sanction (permanent exclusion) will be always available in cases of drug and substance abuse. Consequently, any such allegations will be investigated and adjudicated under the School's *Exclusions Policy*.

28. However, permanent exclusion will not be necessarily the only sanction considered. In particular, where no threat to the well-being of others is deemed to exist, the School may consider whether to impose an alternative (lesser) sanction as part of a bespoke programme of medical and other assistance designed to help the student overcome his drug-related problem.

29. Where a student is permanently excluded for drugs and substance abuse, he will be able to appeal the decision to the Governors. The appeal procedure is set out in the School's *Exclusions Policy*.

## Appendix 1

### Simple Statement to BEDSTONE COLLEGE Students on Drugs and Substance Abuse

- It has always been the policy of the School to assume that its students are intelligent and capable of independent thought. From this follows the assumption that any member of the School who decides to become involved in any way with banned or illegal substances has firstly taken a conscious decision to do so, and secondly has weighed up all the implications involved in that act.
- One implication that must be faced by any student taking a decision to use drugs, is that in doing so, **they will forfeit their right to a place at the School**, and so place in jeopardy their continued presence as a member of the School.
- Students who are suspected of being involved in drug-related activities will be subject to a detailed investigation.
- If a student is caught either using drugs or in possession of drugs in School, the penalties will be severe.
- Students who are involved in supplying or trading **must expect to be required to leave the School**. Students who are caught in possession of drugs for their own use will be excluded and may be required to leave the School.
- "Supplying" means offering to supply, even if unable to fulfil the offer, and includes **giving** a drug to a friend. The School's view of the offence is the same whether the offence takes place on School premises or not.
- "Trading" means selling or exchanging for something of value. Once again, where the offence takes place does not affect the School's view of the severity of the offence.
- "Own use" means exactly that. It assumes that the drugs were obtained outside School and were not offered to, given to or sold to anybody else.
- Subject to the School's discretion, a student **may** be re-admitted following a drug-related offence. When this is the case, the school reserves the right to require medical evidence that he is no longer using illegal substances; and that evidence may take the form of random drug testing for the remainder of the student's time at Bedstone.
- Drug testing following readmission will be carried out by an independent organisation nominated by the School and with full 'chain of custody' safeguards. Such testing will be paid for by the student's parent or legal guardian.
- In the event of a test proving positive the student must expect to be required to leave the School.
- A student who has been re-admitted to the School subject to random drug-testing and who refuses to take a test must expect to be required to leave the School.
- Students and their parents must expect that when a drug-related problem comes to light, the police are likely to be informed.

- Teachers, and most members of the non-teaching staff cannot offer confidentiality to a student who wants to disclose his illegal use of drugs. However, the School will act with sensitivity towards any member of the School community with a drug-related problem who wishes to seek help to overcome it. The School medical staff **are** available for confidential discussion and will apply the normal code of confidentiality appropriate to their profession.

## APPENDIX 2:

Drug misuse is defined by HM Government as the non-medical use of drugs that are only intended for use in medical treatment. The use of drugs that have no accepted medical purposes are controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

DRUG CLASS	DRUG TYPE	PRISON TERMS
<b>A</b>	Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms, amphetamines (if prepared for injection).	Possession<7 Years (and/or unlimited fine) Supply<Life (and/or unlimited fine)
<b>B</b>	Amphetamines, Cannabis(Herbal/Resin/Leaf), Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine.	Possession<5 years (and/or unlimited fine) Supply<14 years (and/or unlimited fine)
<b>C</b>	Tranquilisers, some painkillers, Gamma hydroxybutyrate (GHB), Ketamine.	Possession<2 years (and/or unlimited fine) Supply<14 years (and/or unlimited fine)

Solvents are not illegal but staff should treat incidents involving solvent-abuse with equal seriousness.

## APPENDIX 3: The Misuse of Drugs Act.

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

- To possess, possess with intent to supply, supply a controlled drug to another in contravention of the Act.
- For the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises, knowingly to permit or suffer on this premises, the smoking of cannabis, or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply any controlled drug.

Other points from the Act.

- Knowing or suspecting it to be a controlled drug, a person can take possession of it for the purpose of preventing another from committing or continuing to commit an offence provided that in doing so they took all such steps that were reasonably open to destroy or deliver into custody of a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it, (a teacher or police officer) as soon as possible.