

Responses to Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Abuse

At Broomhill Bank School we take the welfare of our students very seriously. Our role is to safeguard them from harm and to do this we have to have a response to alcohol, drug or substance misuse.

The word 'drugs' is defined as

'a medicine or other substance which has a physiological effect when ingested or otherwise introduced into the body.'

In this policy the word drug is used in its widest sense including those which are legal (with certain limits), including tobacco, alcohol, volatile substances which can be used to alter mood and prescription drugs. The word 'misuse' applies to all illegal use of drugs (including the use of social drugs by children) and the excessive use of social drugs.

Aims:

- i) To place drug education and the school's opposition to the misuse of drugs within the context of the school as a caring community.
- ii) To protect pupils from the dangers of drugs and their misuse
- iii) To provide drugs education for pupils, parents and staff
- iv) To work with outside agencies to limit risk of access to harmful substances
- v) To enable pupils to be in a position to make informed, healthy choices and decisions and prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug abuse.

In order to do this the School will:

Provide drugs education for pupils through the PSHE programme, identified lessons and assemblies.

Present information in a variety of ways that will reflect individual needs, for example group discussion, presentations by video and guest speakers, pamphlets and peer groups.

Work closely with the local Police Liaison Officer on ensuring that pupils understand the law and their legal rights.

Evaluate the drugs education programme at regular intervals, using pupil, parent and staff responses.

Ensure that pupils, parents and staff are fully aware of the policy and sanctions.

Tobacco

Broomhill Bank School operates a no smoking policy at all times throughout the buildings and grounds. This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents and visitors.

Effects of smoking

Cigarette smoking is the biggest cause of preventable disease and premature death in this country. Diseases include lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory illnesses and cancer of the mouth.

Smoking causes almost one in five of all deaths. There are 300 smoking-related deaths each day in the UK.

There are over 4000 different chemicals in tobacco smoke. These include harmful substances such as nicotine, carbon monoxide, tar, benzene, formaldehyde, ammonia, hydrogen cyanide, acetone and arsenic.

Effects on children and young people

Young people place themselves at risk of minor illnesses and a greater risk of serious disease later on if they smoke. They also find it harder to give up later in life. Young people are more likely to smoke if parents and other close family members smoke, and especially if their parents do not object to them smoking.

Children who live in a smoky atmosphere are more likely to have asthma and chest infections-they will suffer worse symptoms if they are already diagnosed as asthmatic. Research has shown that the children of smokers suffer more from glue ear and get more colds and coughs. All of the above are directly linked to the effects of so-called passive smoking. It is not surprising that a major effect of smoking on children is that they spend more time off sick.

Action to be taken by staff if you find a pupil either smoking or in the possession of cigarettes

- Let him/her know that you care
- Discuss the social and economic factors of smoking.
- Discuss the health risks such as cancer, heart disease and respiratory illnesses.
- Inform the boarder that it is a school rule not to smoke whilst at the school (both on the property and outside), confiscate the cigarettes. Give to parents.
- Be a good role model by not smoking in front of the children and young people.
- Take an interest in the lives of our students and it is more likely that they will talk to you and be influenced by you.
- Sanction as appropriate.

Alcohol

The possession and use of alcohol on school premises is prohibited for all members of the school community. The Executive Headteacher must be consulted and permission obtained before arranging any functions at which alcohol may be consumed.

Pupils will not be allowed alcohol at School events regardless of whether or not they are with their parents and regardless of age (some may be over 18). Staff who accompany school trips must be mindful of the fact that they are 'in loco parentis' and must not drink alcohol.

Drugs

Should any illegal substances be found in a pupil's possession whilst in school, irrespective of whether for own use, passing, receiving, buying or selling, the pupil will be immediately isolated from other pupils and excluded from school pending further investigation. This will be a neutral action of removal until evidence or proof of wrong-doing is available. Should investigation prove positive, permanent exclusion may result and the Police will be informed as a matter of course. Should any pupil voluntarily disclose possession of illegal substances, concern for the pupil's welfare will be paramount and appropriate support action will be instigated but the pupil may still be excluded from school pending further investigation.

Solvents

We recognise that many ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored and managed. COSHH regulations will apply to secure storage and safe keeping of solvent substances in school.

Substance abusing parents

Some pupils may have a parent or guardian whose drug use (legal and/or illegal) is problematic. The pupil's welfare is paramount and the school will act, with reasonable care, to support the pupil, practically and emotionally.

Responding to Drug related incidents

Whilst adhering to the unequivocal opposition to drug misuse, Broomhill Bank School acknowledges pastoral responsibility in this area and seeks to work closely with families and support agencies.

The range of responses to support pupils and families may include:

- In school counselling services Referral to outside agencies for counselling treatment.

Case conferences to discuss options before devising action plans to enable pupils to return or remain in school.

- In school inclusion.

Sanctions/Consequences

- Exclusion following possession of illegal substances, subject to further investigation and review.

Emergency action

If a pupil is deemed to be in danger as a result of drug misuse, the school's normal emergency first aid response operates.

Intoxication

For possible intoxication, the pupil will be removed to a quiet room and accompanied by a member of staff at all times. The school's normal first aid response will operate. Parents will be informed and called to the school to collect the pupil and advised to seek medical advice.

Discovery / observation of drug misuse

- If a pupil is discovered in possession of, using or dealing any substance not permitted in school, (s)he will be referred to the DSL, Head of School or SLT.
- This member of staff will seek to remove any suspicious substances from the pupil in the presence of another adult witness or secure the voluntary production of any substance believed to be concealed on the pupil's person. (no intimate search may be made) Any substance taken possession of will be sealed in a plastic bag, signed by the witness present with date and time.
- The situation will be investigated promptly and thoroughly and a written record made
- The pupil will be kept out of class / away from peers. The pupil will be informed that the situation is a serious one and that parents and police will be informed and asked to attend the school. The decision to remove the pupil from peers is a neutral one and does not indicate any definitive conclusion having been made.
- A member of SLT will notify the pupil's parents/guardians.
- The pupil will be excluded from school at a time that is deemed appropriate to possible police and parental attendance.
- If the substance is/or suspected of being illegal, a member of SLT will call the local police to help with identification and gain appropriate police involvement.

Pupil disclosure

- A pupil may be willing to disclose to members of staff that (s)he has been using drugs or is concerned about someone else's drug use. Concern for the pupil's welfare will be paramount but staff will not be able to promise complete confidentiality and should make this known to the pupil. Information will be treated as any other sensitive information about pupils. SLT/ DSL will be informed and further help sought if appropriate. The pupil may be referred to a drugs or counselling

agency / intervention programme. Action on sanctions/consequences may be an appropriate part of the response to a pupil's disclosure. This is at the discretion of SLT. Parents will also be consulted as part of this process if it is appropriate.

Suspicion/Hearsay

Any hearsay / rumour about pupil drug misuse will be carefully evaluated in the light of the school's own knowledge of the pupil and sensitively investigated prior to possible action.

If the rumour is believed to be unfounded, steps will be taken to challenge the rumour and its effects. If found to be true, steps will be taken as previously outlined. Suspicion of a pupil misusing a drug may require further observation and monitoring over a period of time before deciding on appropriate action to be taken.

Any information about alleged drug misuse, received by the School, will be communicated to parents, subject to the usual procedures around parental contact. Whether or not there is concrete evidence or basis of truth in this, the School believes that it has a duty to inform parents of any allegations in order to allow them the opportunity of discussion with their child.

Recordings of pupil observations by staff should adhere to the following:

- a) They will be specific
- b) They will be non-judgmental (descriptive)
- c) They will be objective
- d) They will be factual
- e) They will be dated and signed
- f) They should show pattern, nature and frequency