



THE Boswells SCHOOL

A member of the Chelmsford Learning Partnership

DRUGS AND MISUSE POLICY

The Boswells School defines a drug as any substance that, when taken into the body, brings about a psychological or physiological change.

Responsible	Local Governing Body
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THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL – DRUGS AND MISUSE POLICY

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Part 1: DEFINITIONS

Definition – The Boswells School defines a drug as any substance that, when taken into the body, brings about a psychological or physiological change.

Substance use and misuse

- The Boswells School is committed to the health and safety of all members of its community, and it will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school will not tolerate the use of, possession of, or supply of, any drug on the school site by any member of its community, nor will it tolerate any member of the school community being under the influence of a drug on the school site or on the way to or from school. This will be considered a serious breach of the school’s behaviour policy and will be dealt with as such. This also applies to any school approved activity or visit off the school site.
- This now includes Legal Highs as The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, came into force on May 26th 2016. Under the legislation it is an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, possess.
- (A psychoactive substance is defined in the new law as a drug which is capable of affecting a person’s mental functioning or emotional state, but is not currently controlled as a class A, B or C drug. Psychoactive substances are any substances intended for human consumption excluding legitimate ones, such as food, alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, caffeine and medical products).

- The Boswells School acknowledges the importance of its 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. It is an ongoing feature of the Personal Development curriculum and reflects the RSE September 2020 Statutory Guidance.
- This policy has been drawn up in line with the Government's advice to schools.
- The school will work closely with a number of external agencies to support the students in providing education and support in drug education.

Part 2: EXPECTATIONS

Students should

- Students should take a full and active role in the Personal Development programme to ensure they gain the information they need.
- Ensure that they are not in possession of, or use any drug on the school site or on the way to or from school or whilst involved in any school approved activity or visit.
- Ensure they are not under the influence of a drug whilst on the school site or on the way to or from school or involved in any school approved activity.
- Inform the school of any behaviour that concerns them regarding drug use and misuse.
- Speak to a member of staff if they have any needs relating to issues regarding substance use and misuse.

Parents should

- Ensure your son/daughter is aware of the school's policy on drug use and the consequences that may follow such behaviour.
- Discuss the dangers of drug use with their children.
- Support the school in ensuring the wellbeing of all members of the school community.
- Contact the school if they have any concerns relating to drug related issues.

School will

- Ensure that it informs and educates students on the consequences of drug use through the Personal Development programme.
- Support parents by providing information to them regarding drug use.
- Ensure effective communication with parents to ensure the wellbeing of their children.
- Support students and parents in receiving support for drug use, although it must be remembered that the need for support will be balanced by the needs of the community as a whole. It should be remembered that the following behaviour will be classed as a serious breach of the school's behaviour policy:
 - i. Using a drug on the school site*
 - ii. Possession of a drug on the school site*
 - iii. Supplying a drug on the school site*
 - iv. Being under the influence of a drug on the school site*(* or on the way to or from school or while involved in any school approved activity or visit or whilst wearing any item of The Boswells School uniform)

Part 3: PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

1. All students in the school follow the Personal Development curriculum and the school believes that its programme supports students in relation to drug use in the following ways:
 - Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
 - Provide accurate information about drugs.
 - Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use.
 - Widen understanding about health and social related issues relating to drug use (e.g. HIV/AIDS, sex and sexuality, crime and coercion into the gang culture / county lines)
 - To seek to minimise the risks faced by users and potential users.
2. Whilst taught directly through the Personal Development programme which complies with the RSE September 2020 Statutory Guidance, there will be opportunities for students in other subject areas, such as English, Science and R.E. to discuss and

reinforce learning. The school works with a number of external agencies to help deliver its programme of drug education to parents and students.

3. Students and staff will receive regular County Lines training and be provided with comprehensive and informative content on how young people can be exploited in ways that links to drug use. Training will also be provided to parents.

Part 4: STUDENTS REQUIRING MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

There will be times when students require medication when they are in school. At all times, parents should keep the school informed of the medical requirements of their children. If a student requires to take medicine during the school day then the school office should be informed. The medicine will be kept by the school office in a locked cabinet and administered when required by the student. Students should not carry any medication around the school site with them unless approved by parents and the Medical staff are fully informed (e.g. Epi pens, inhalers)

Part 5: DEALING WITH DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

- All members of the school community should be aware that drug related incidents are emotive issues and may generate interest from a number of areas, including local and national media.
- This part of the drug policy should be read in conjunction with the school's behaviour policy.
- The Boswells School considers the following to be serious breaches of its behaviour policy:
 - Using drugs on the school site*
 - Possession of a drug on the school site*
 - Supplying a drug on the school site*
 - Being under the influence of a drug on the school site*

*(*or on the way to or from school or whilst involved in any school activity or visit or whilst wearing any item of The Boswells School uniform)*

1. The responses to these incidents will vary depending on the circumstances of each incident, but where an illegal drug is used on the school site or on the way to or from school or involved in an activity or visit or whilst wearing any item of The Boswells School uniform or where a student is under the influence of an illegal drug on the school site, it is likely that a fixed-term exclusion or permanent exclusion would result.

2. Where a student repeatedly is under the influence of a drug, the school will consider a Permanent Exclusion.
3. In line with Government guidance, any student that supplies or sells an illegal drug on the school site or repeatedly uses an illegal drug on the school site is likely to be permanently excluded, even if this is a 'one-off' event.
4. In making any decision the school will consider carefully the interests of the whole school community, as well as the interest of the student(s) involved.
5. In all cases, the school will contact parents whilst dealing with drug related incidents. Any drug related incident will be investigated and this investigation will be led by a member of the school's Leadership Team. It is likely that a fixed term exclusion will be applied where there is a strong indication that a serious breach of the school's behaviour and drugs policy has occurred and where there is the need for further investigation.
6. There is no legal obligation for the school to inform the police regarding drug related incidents, however the police may be able to give relevant support and advice. Where it is suspected however that drugs are being sold/supplied on the school site, details of those involved as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.
7. The school will share intelligence with the local police if they feel a child is at risk linked to drug use or drug related activity. The school will also inform the parents and carers if they feel a child is at risk linked to drug use or drug related activity.