



## BEECHEN CLIFF

### DRUGS POLICY

This policy encompasses all mind-altering substances commonly referred to as “drugs” including :

- authorised drugs such as medicines, alcohol and tobacco;
- controlled drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) – also known as illegal drugs or substances;
- volatile substances (e.g. solvents that are capable of misuse as drugs).

1. Possession, use or dealing in controlled drugs, or any activity involving misuse of other drugs, is an extremely serious offence. Any member of the school community found to have been involved in such activity during the course of the school day, during a school organised activity or at any other time when the authority of the school pertains will be subject to sanctions, up to and including permanent exclusion. Anyone found to have been dealing in or supplying controlled drugs to others will be permanently excluded. [The normal sanction for use of controlled drugs will be permanent exclusion.]
2. Medicines may only be brought into School in compliance with the School Medicines Policy.
3. The School does not condone the use of tobacco or alcohol by students and pupils. Smoking is not permitted anywhere on the School site, and this includes the use of e-cigarettes. The consumption of alcohol on the School site is limited to organised School events [with the permission of the Headmaster].
4. The Headmaster, in cases where controlled drugs are found to have been used, should consider obtaining medical or other specialist advice, as the pupil's health and safety may be in danger.
5. All pupils and parent/carers will be made aware of this Policy on joining the School and at subsequent regular intervals - at least annually.
6. The School will provide at all year levels a range of drug related information and education during Assemblies and through the PSHE syllabus. The School cooperates with outside agencies and seeks advice and support from all relevant agencies.
7. Schools regard it as important that any pupils who have been known to be involved in drugs are closely monitored if a transfer between schools occurs. Confidential information will be shared on a need-to-know basis in order to ensure the most positive opportunities for pupils starting at a new school.

#### **Rationale for the Drugs Policy -**

“There will be some young people of school age who choose to experiment with illegal drugs even if they have both the knowledge of the risks and the skills to resist peer pressure. Schools therefore need clear policies and procedures for dealing with drug-related incidents and for working with other services connected with young people to offer appropriate advice and support.” DFE

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The School has a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug misuse, and to deter such misuse. The School is proactive in these matters and believes that health education is a vital component of the PSHE programme.

A key element in this process is the relationship with parents and the shared responsibility for the education of young people.

### **Objectives of the Drugs Policy -**

- To safeguard all pupils/students in school.
- To enable pupils/students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of misuse.
- To deter pupils/students from misuse of drugs
- To enable young people to identify possible sources of support.

These objectives will be fulfilled through PSHE and Science and also in Assemblies. The PSHE programme is taught using timetables lessons and “collapsed days” and the LA Drugs Education Consultant is involved in the planning of these days. The PSHE programme recognises age specific issues and the requirements of vulnerable and SEN pupils/students. The School cooperates with outside agencies and seeks advice and support from all relevant agencies.

### **The Roles of the Headmaster and the Governors -**

- The Headmaster takes overall responsibility for the Drugs Policy and its implementation.
- The Headmaster appoints the Pastoral Team Line Manager as the Designated Teacher with responsibility for drug related incidents.
- The Headmaster will liaise with the media.
- The Governors will be kept fully informed of all drug related incidents.

### **Procedures -**

The Headmaster gives permission to any member of staff who has suspicions that a pupil/student may be in possession of drugs to carry out a search of the pupil/student and his/her belongings. This should be done in the presence of another member of staff. Any suspected drugs or drug paraphernalia will be confiscated and stored in a safe place until such time as they can be safely disposed of.

In a drug related incident written statements will be taken from all involved parties and the incident documented as fully as possible within 24 hours of the incident. Parents/carers must be informed about the incident as soon as possible but it is unlikely that a decision about the appropriate sanction will have been made at this time.

In the case of an authorised drug incident it is not necessary to inform the Police although the School can decide to do so. Trading Standards may also need to be informed. In the case of a controlled drug incident there is no legal obligation to inform the Police although the School can decide to do so, and they may be involved in the disposal of any illegal substances.

Parents, carers and other adults who are on school premises under the influence of drugs will need careful handling and the Pastoral Team Line Manager should be sent for immediately. In extreme cases it may be necessary to summon the Police. There may also be Child Protection issues connected with such behaviour.

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## APPENDIX A

### Procedures for dealing with incidents involving cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, alcohol and illegal substances.

#### 1. CIGARETTES -

- when a pupil is found to be **in possession of** smoking materials (including e-cigarettes), these materials must be confiscated and given to the Head of House or Pastoral Team Line Manager they will then be safely disposed of. A House Detention will be applied.
- where a pupil is found to be **smoking** on school premises (including e-cigarettes), the matter should be reported immediately to the appropriate Head of House. The pupil will serve a Headmaster's Detention, parents informed in the Headmaster's Detention letter and a copy placed in the pupil's file.

#### 2. ALCOHOL -

- when a member of staff suspects that a pupil may be under the influence of alcohol, the Pastoral Team Line Manager must be called immediately.
- where a pupil is found in possession of alcohol, he must be taken to the Pastoral Team Line Manager immediately.
- the alcohol will be confiscated and safely disposed of.
- parents will be contacted immediately and asked to collect their son from school.
- the school will advise the parents on sources of help and support.
- the Headmaster will ensure that the matter is investigated thoroughly and will then decide on the appropriate sanction, which may include exclusion from school.

#### 3. ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES -

When a member of staff suspects that a pupil may either be in possession of an illegal substance or under the influence of an illegal substance, the Pastoral Team Line Manager must be notified immediately. (a) Any pupil who is proven to have supplied an illegal substance (drug) to another pupil during the course of the school day, during a school organised activity or at any time when the authority of the school pertain, will be permanently excluded (expelled) from the school. (b) Any pupil who is proven to have been in possession of or to have used an illegal substance (drug) during the course of the school day, during a school organised activity or at any time when the authority of the school pertains may be permanently excluded (expelled) from the school.

