

Brixham College

Drugs Policy

May 2021

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Prepared by	Richard Burden
Ratified by	The Trustees
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A Values Led College

Introduction

This policy has been fully discussed by the Senior Leadership Team, Heads of Year, Trustees, Parents, PSHE co-ordinator, the local Police Community Support Officer, and representatives on the Staff & Student Management Groups. It will be reviewed regularly. The policy gives clear guidance to staff, Trustees, parents and students on the College's view of drugs, its strategy for drugs prevention, how drugs related incidents are managed and the rules relating to drugs in the College.

It is the role of the College to provide a safe, caring and protective environment for all its students. Thus the College policy is aimed at reducing the risk of exposure to harmful substances and enabling students to take responsibility for their own health and welfare. The pastoral role of the College, including assemblies and the delivery of an effective PSHE programme, provides a proactive approach to drugs education whilst also stating clearly the actions which will be taken in the event of students' involvement in drugs

Context

Social and Cultural

All drugs have the potential to harm; but some drugs are more harmful than others. For a small number of people, drugs lead to serious and far reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For young people in particular, drugs can impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and prevent them from reaching their full potential.

All young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. The College plays a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

However the College cannot act alone. It is part of a broader prevention picture which includes parents/carers and a range of partner agencies. By working together, we can help young people navigate their way through what is a complex social issue. The College works positively with other services to enhance the information available to young people on these issues and understand the impact on communities. It also seeks to work together with agencies to provide the necessary support and services as required.

The majority of young people of College age have never used an illegal drug. Most will at some stage be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and many will try tobacco or alcohol. Some will continue to use on a regular basis. There are complex motivations behind a young person's decision to first experiment with alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances and illegal drugs. However, very few of those who experiment with illegal drugs will go on to become problem drug users. All young people are likely to be exposed to the effects and influences of drugs in the wider community and be increasingly exposed to opportunities to try both legal and illegal drugs.

Local and National Guidance

This policy has been written partly taking into account guidance from attendance at the Drug Awareness Course (Level 1) & the DfES Drugs: Guidance for College DfES 0092/2204.

1. Purpose of the Policy

- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the College
- To reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the College
- To clarify the College's approach to drugs for all staff, students, Trustees, parents/carers, external agencies and the wider community
- To give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme
- To enable staff to manage drugs on College premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved
- To ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the College
- To provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the College drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs
- To reinforce the role of the College in contributing to local and national strategies.

2. Key Responsibilities

If any member of staff has concerns about any drug related incident then they should immediately inform a member of the senior leadership team.

The person in the College who would oversee any major drugs issues in the College would be the Principal (delegated to Vice Principal in his absence). The person responsible for the development and delivery of the drug education programme in the College is the PSHE co-ordinator.

3. Statement on the Use of Drugs, Where and to whom the Policy Applies

Students must not bring unauthorised controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia, cigarettes, tobacco products (papers, matches, lighters), alcohol or volatile substances onto the College site at any time.

Staff and visitors must not bring unauthorized controlled drugs, drug paraphernalia, alcohol or volatile substances onto the College site at any time.

This policy is clear that the possession, consumption, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs is unacceptable within the College boundaries.

The College boundaries extend beyond the College premises and perimeters to include journeys to and from College in College uniform, work experience, residential trips and College link courses and any other occasions when they are representing the College.

Any breaking of these rules may result in a range of punishments, including permanent exclusion. Alcohol may only be brought onto the College site by an adult with the Principal's permission.

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents/carers, Trustees and partner agencies working in the College

4.The College's Definition on Drugs

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

“a substance people take to change the way they think and feel”

The term drugs and drug education unless otherwise stated is used throughout this policy to refer to all drugs:

all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)

all illegal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, Khat, MMCA (Mephedrone) and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers)

all over the counter and prescription medicines

it also includes any product sold under the description of the ever increasing popular legal highs

Incident

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- 1 A person who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- 2 Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on College premises

- 3 Possession of drugs by an individual on College premises
- 4 Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- 5 Supply of drugs on school premises
- 6 Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
 - 7 Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
 - 8 Reports of drug possession supply or drug use
 - 9 A student who knowingly pretends & uses a substance as a 'fake' drug to create a response or reaction from others

5.The Health Needs of the College Body

The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the College community and meeting the needs of the students. The College statement on illegal or other unauthorised drugs as defined above is clear. The first concern in dealing with a medical emergency involving drugs is the health and safety of the College community and meeting the needs of the students. Appropriate help/first aid should be summoned before further issues are addressed.

Confidentiality: The welfare of young people will always be central to our policy and practice. However, teachers will not be able to promise complete confidentiality. Information about a student in relation to drugs will follow the same procedure as for other sensitive information. The Head of Year, appropriate Vice Principal and Principal will be informed and further help sought if appropriate.

Medicines: Some drugs may be authorised in College, namely medicines. If a student is on medicine either prescribed by a doctor or over the counter medicine as with parental instruction, clear guidance for this is set out in the College First Aid and Medical Policy. This must be consulted and the guidance adhered to, if in doubt clarity must be sought from the College before a student is given any medicines to bring onto College site, in all cases this must be declared and made known to the key staff.

Volatile Substances: Some solvents or hazardous chemicals are legitimately used by College staff or students. These substances are stored securely (in line with COSHH regulations) and managed to prevent inappropriate use or access. Arrangements are set out in the College's health and safety policy.

Alcohol: The College recognises that there may be occasions when a member of staff may experience difficulties in relation to alcohol misuse outside of College. Staff are encouraged to discuss this with line managers so that support can be put in place. The College offers confidential counselling through Torbay LA that can be booked. In addition, an Occupation Health Referral can be actioned if appropriate.

Tobacco: In keeping with Brixham College policy, the College is a non-smoking site.

6. Drugs Education and Drugs Prevention

The College provides a comprehensive and planned drugs education curriculum for all students, as part of the Personal Social Health Education (PSHEE) programme and in other areas of the curriculum, as summarised below.

Support for teaching and understanding drugs related issues is also incorporated in our staff INSET programme using a range of outside agencies. A Senior Leadership Team member with oversight of the PSHE Coordinator has responsibility for ensuring that there is effective drugs education embodied within the PSHEE curriculum.

This aims to provide all students with knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs, including tobacco and alcohol. The College acknowledges that a positive College ethos helps students to feel valued and part of the College community, and in so doing, helps to foster positive self-images, which may help students to cope better in situations involving drug abuse.

7. The College's Response to a Drugs-Related Incident

Parent/carer involvement:

Parents/carers will be informed of the drugs education curriculum and have the opportunity to raise concerns. Parents will be contacted if their child is involved in breaking the rules on drugs and advised on how the College, intends to proceed. Where it is felt that to do this might put the child's safety at risk or if there is any other cause for concern for the child's safety at home then the College will exercise caution when considering contacting parents/carers. In any situation where it is felt the child may be at significant risk of harm and require protection the Vice Principal will be advised. Opportunities will be made available for parent/carers to get support and guidance concerning drugs and other health related issues. Parents are encouraged to approach the College if they are concerned about any issue relating to drugs and their child and the College can refer to specialist support.

Police Involvement:

In most cases, any punishment is likely to be a College matter. However, the College is aware of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 which makes it an offence to possess or supply drugs. This Act also allows individuals to take possession of

an illegal drug to prevent someone else committing an offence, providing that they either hand it to the police or destroy it immediately. The College maintains strong links with the local community police through their involvement in the drugs education curriculum, which helps students to have a greater understanding of the role of the police and about drugs and the law. It is the policy of this College to contact the local police where it is believed that an incident has involved illegal substances.

Disciplinary response:

Situations where College rules on drugs are broken will result in punishment. The type of punishment cannot be categorically stated as it will depend on the exact nature and degree of the offence. Sanctions will include fixed term exclusions, community service and, permanent exclusion will be considered. The sanction for drug dealing within the College will be permanent exclusion. Any staff related issues would be dealt with under existing staff policies.

Counselling response:

The students' welfare is paramount and in all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling or support will be actively considered. The College has contacts with local drugs agencies and advisers who can offer some counselling and work with students as part of the drugs education programme. We believe that those students who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be given appropriate support and guidance.

8. Searches and disposal of drugs related items

College Searches:

The College will ensure that a second adult witness is present. If this is refused they will consider whether to call the police. Searches will be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress.

It should be noted that under article 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 the College reserves the right to search personal property without consent, the College is entitled to do personal searches of students when they are believed to have drugs on their person, this is in place to protect the human rights of the other students in the College, the College will not normally exercise this right.

Personal searches: When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised drugs every effort will be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any drugs, in the presence of a second adult witness. Where the individual refuses and the drug is believed to be illegal, and the College wishes to proceed along formal lines, then the police will be called.

Searches of College property: Staff may search College property, for example, students' lockers or desks if they believe drugs to be stored there.

Searches of personal property: The College reserves the right search personal property without consent. After any search involving students, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the College, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

The law permits College staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug providing that all reasonable steps are taken to deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected illegal drugs staff will:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present.
- store it in College safe
- without delay** notify the police, who will be asked to collect it and then store or dispose of it
- record the incident on Classcharts.

The law does not require a College to divulge to the police the name of the student from whom the drugs were taken, but in the case of an illegal or unauthorised drug the College will normally do so. Liaison will take place to ensure the safe disposal of any substances.

Where a student is identified the police will be required to follow set internal procedures. To record full details of the incident, including notes of any discussions with the students. These should include date, time place and people present. The police incident reference number should also be included.

Staff should not attempt to analyse or taste unknown substances. Police may advise on analysis and formal identification. If formal action is to be taken against a student, the police will make arrangements for them to attend a local police station accompanied by an appropriate adult for interview. Only in exceptional circumstances should arrest or interviews take place at College. An appropriate adult should always be present during interviews, preferably a parent/carers or duty social worker.

Legal Drugs:

The police will not always be involved in incidents involving legal drugs, but the College will inform trading standards or police about the inappropriate sale or supply of tobacco, mis-use of prescriptive & non prescriptive medicines & pills, alcohol or volatile substances to students in the local area. This includes

Alcohol and tobacco: Parents/carers will be informed and informed that the alcohol/tobacco has been disposed of. In cases where a disciplinary proceeding is necessary, items will be disposed of, once this has taken place.

Volatile substances: Given the level of danger posed by volatile substances, the College will arrange for their safe disposal.

Medicines: Parents/carers will be informed and will be asked to collect and dispose of unused or date-expired medicines.

In the event that medicines have been supplied to other students, they will be sanctioned in a similar manner as if they were an illegal drug and could result in permanent exclusion from the College.

Disposal of drug equipment:

Needles or syringes found on College premises will be placed in a sturdy, secure container, using gloves. A tin is kept in the office for this purpose, out of reach of students. Used needles and syringes will be disposed of appropriately and not put in domestic waste.

9.The College's Response to Misuse of Drugs by Adults

If parents/carers are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on College premises, staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere and call for a second adult, if necessary. On occasion, a teacher may have concerns about discharging a student into the care of a parent/carer. In such instances, the College will discuss with the parent/carer if alternative arrangements could be made, for example asking another parent/carer to accompany the child home.

If staff members are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on College premises, senior staff should attempt to maintain a calm atmosphere and call for a second adult, if necessary. Disciplinary actions for staff are covered under their employment contract.

Delivery of Drugs Education in the College

This is an example which can be modified to meet current need

Drugs Education and Drugs Prevention within the PSHE curriculum.

At Brixham College, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education) is taught explicitly within tutor time twice a week, assemblies, the Sixth Form Personal Development Programme and Flexible Learning Days. PSHE is also taught implicitly within many subjects and events at the College for example Science, PE and Philosophy and Ethics. Part of this curriculum is Drugs awareness and prevention education. Drugs awareness and prevention education is tailored to the individual needs of specific year groups and is reactive to additional needs across the cohort.

Year 7:

Flexible Learning Day – ‘Who am I?’ Self-esteem and personal identity.

Resilience workshops.

Mental Health PSHE session in tutor base.

Year 8:

Flexible Learning Day – ‘Breaking the Habit’. Workshops on smoking, drugs and alcohol. A talk from local police about anti-social behaviour.

Mental Health PSHE session in tutor base.

Year 9:

Flexible Learning Day – Managing Risky Situations ie. at a party and what to do.

Legal Highs and illegal drugs workshop.

Mental Health PSHE session in tutor base.

Year 10:

Flexible Learning Day – ‘Healthy lives lead to happy lives’ Health Day. Talk from AA member about the risks of alcohol.

Legal Highs and illegal drugs workshop.

Mental Health PSHE session in tutor base.

Year 12:

Personal Development Session – Talk from AA member about the risks of alcohol.

Year 13:

Personal Development Session – Workshop on understanding the risks involved in illegal drugs and 'legal highs'

Personal Development Session – Mental Health Workshop

All Flexible Learning Days, additional workshops and PSHE sessions provide students with contact points to discuss issues and seek support for example the School Nurse, Student Support and outside agencies.