

**Policy:** Drugs Policy

**Approval:** Headteacher

**Date:** June 2023

**Next Review:** Summer 2025



**CHELTENHAM  
BOURNSIDE  
SCHOOL**

**Policies**

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**This policy should be read in conjunction with the Ladder of Consequences.**

### **1. Aims and objectives**

Students will follow a programme of study (Education for Life) that will equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary to make informed choices about drug-related issues. This will be independent of, but complemented by, work covered in the curriculum of Science and Religious Studies, as well as information delivered as part of our mixed age tutoring system and assembly programme.

The programme of study is designed to enable students to:

- develop their decision-making skills
- be self-confident, able to understand and cope with peer pressure
- be aware of the law relating to drugs, their use and misuse
- increase their understanding and knowledge of the situations in which drugs are used – both legally and illegally
- acquire accurate information about substances
- be aware of the vocabulary and terminology associated with drugs and drugs misuse
- develop responsible attitudes towards the use of drugs and be aware that although many people misuse drugs for short term gratification and pleasure, inevitably there are serious and long-term harmful effects of such misuse
- widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and AIDS
- know from where they can access support/advice services.

The programme of study will arise naturally from the school's desire to further students' awareness of health related issues, and enhance their understanding of the rule of law. The emphasis will be on developing skills and positive attitudes among students, building self-esteem and an understanding of self-worth.

Activities will be appropriate to the age and maturity of students and will allow for suitable differentiation to suit students of all abilities. There will be an emphasis on active learning and a variety of approaches, including role play, group discussion and the use of audio-visual material. The majority of the programme of study delivered during Education for Life is supported by outside agencies such as the local police force and infoBuzz.

### **2. Organisation of the school drugs education programme**

The Head of Education for Life holds a responsibility for the planning and delivery of the Education for Life programme of study, including the programme of study on drugs. The responsibility includes the acquisition and evaluation of resources in discussion with other leaders (Director of Science, Head of RS, Deputy Headteacher – Culture, and the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Resources are chosen on the basis of their suitability, relevance and accuracy. They must prove useful in the context of the active learning methods and informal approaches most often used in Education for Life.

### **3. The school's response to substance misuse**

**As part of their induction, new students should be made aware of this policy and the school's stance on the use of or possession of illegal drugs or drug related paraphernalia).**

### **Inclusive definition of drugs**

The school defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, tobacco substitutes, solvents, medicines and substances sometimes referred to as 'legal highs'.

### **Tobacco**

The possession or smoking of tobacco (or electronic cigarettes, 'vaping' machines or tobacco substitutes) (or being part of a group when this is taking place) whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a school activity is not permitted. The Ladder of Consequences clearly outlines the sanctions for such offences.

### **Alcohol**

Possessing, consuming, or being under the influence of alcohol whilst on site, in uniform, or on an educational offsite visit is not permitted; unless the student is of consensual age in the country of the visit, and has the explicit permission of the trip leader and parent. The Ladder of Consequences clearly outlines the sanctions put in place for such offences.

### **Other drugs**

The use and abuse of illegal substances is against the law and is therefore against school rules and will be seen by the school as criminal behaviour. Our Education for Life programme addresses the issues and attempts to highlight the positive importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Anyone involved in using/supplying drugs whilst on site, in uniform, or while involved in a school activity will automatically be reported to both parents/carers and police. Each individual case will require significant investigation and consideration, with regard to the balance of support and sanction. The Ladder of Consequences clearly outlines the possible sanctions for such offences which, save in exceptional cases, will be permanent exclusion.

However, within this context, the school will consider each incidence of substance misuse individually and recognises that a variety of responses may be necessary. The school will seek to balance the interests of any students misusing substances with those of the other members of the school and also members of the local community.