

# BOA

## Drugs Policy

**Date of Issue: September 2020**

**Date of Review: September 2021**

## **Purpose**

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team because of the changing drugs landscape both nationally and locally. This policy has been written with reference to the DfE guidelines on *Behaviour & Discipline in Schools* as well as the *DfE and ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) drug advice for schools*. It also includes views from students.

## **Ethos of the school**

BOA actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the academy takes a robust approach to any individual or group that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies.

This is an academy where human rights are respected; as such the responsibility to maintain high standards of behaviour lies with all members of the BOA community. The academy acknowledges its legal duties under the Equalities Act 2010 in relation to all protected groups including SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) and will always take their circumstances into account.

## **Education and Prevention**

We ensure that age appropriate education and support is provided through L2L, science lessons as well as tutorials and Personal Development Lessons. Links to support and advice services are displayed on our website.

## **Definition of a drug**

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter or prescription medicines and legal highs. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

## **Drugs on school premises**

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the academy at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

## **Medicines**

The academy has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Managing Medicines Policy.

## **Alcohol**

No alcohol may be brought on to the academy premises or consumed during the course of a school day. Students, parents, carers and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole academy. Parents will be asked to remove their children from the academy or make safe arrangements to get them home.

## **Smoking**

The academy premises is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to the academy smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on academy premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Smoking on or in any area in front of or surrounding the academy premises may result in a Fixed Term Exclusion. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

## **Illegal drugs and legal highs**

No illegal drugs, legal highs' (New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) now illegal under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016) or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on academy premises. Bringing any such items onto academy premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on academy premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

## **Solvents**

The academy will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto academy premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

## **Responses to drug related incidents**

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on academy premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on academy premises
- Supply of drugs on academy premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

Any response to drug related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the wider school community.

Exclusion from the academy is not an automatic response to a drug incident, permanent exclusion **will** be considered in serious cases where:

There is a serious breach of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Handbook and allowing a student to remain in BOA would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or

others in the academy

A member of the SLT will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Principal. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

### **Drug Misuse outside the school premises**

In line with *Behaviour & Discipline in Schools* (February 2014) the academy may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside the academy when students are:

- taking part in any academy-organised or academy-related activity or
- travelling to or from the academy
- in some way identifiable as a student at the academy.

The academy may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the academy
- poses a threat to another student or member of the public
- could adversely affect the reputation of the academy.

### **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any student or adult on academy premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the academy will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. Parents will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

### **Confidentiality**

BOA will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate.

Complete confidentiality can never be promised to a student though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular, if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to try to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures, staff will follow the advice given in the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy, and at the annual safeguarding training.

### **Support for students**

At our academy the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the academy feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in the academy (Counsellor, or Pastoral staff)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support
- Involvement of the Police

## **Right to Search**

In line with recent legislation the staff at BOA reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances.

Similarly, students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community.

Searches will be carried out under the direction of the Senior Leadership Team (namely the Principal or Assistant Principal: Designated Safeguarding Lead) and Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. Training for all staff at BOA is delivered annually through the safeguarding and child protection training.

If inappropriate articles are brought into the academy or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and returned to parents/carers or disposed of in line with national guidelines. If these items are dangerous or illegal they will be handed to the Police for safe disposal.