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ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Author: Senior Deputy Head	Receiver: Pupil, Staff, Parents
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1. Introduction and Our Educational Philosophy

As a school, we want to support our pupils to lead healthy lives that are free from drugs. Our duty of care to all pupils is twofold; there is a need to inform and educate pupils about the risks to physical and mental health that drugs present, but also a need to support pupils who make poor choices and decisions, the consequences of which may influence the rest of their lives.

The supply, possession or use of drugs by members of the School is unacceptable and is not permitted.

2 Our Aims

Bryanston believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substance use and misuse:

1. To safeguard physical and mental health of all pupils in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
2. To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by broadening understanding, challenging attitudes and developing decision-making skills.
3. To provide accurate information about drugs and substances.
4. To increase awareness about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and substance use and misuse.
5. To explore through discussion related health and social issues.
6. To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

3 Our Approach

The School's approach is based on education, a strong disciplinary framework and robust deterrents to keep the community safe.

Drugs education: This is delivered through the School's PSHE programme and also through the Medical Centre and House Assemblies. Drugs education aims to explain the risks to a pupil's health and wellbeing and to advocate the mental and physical benefits of a drug-free life. We strive to create a culture that empowers pupils to say no to experimentation and misuse of drugs, and to use healthy coping mechanisms in life.

Strong disciplinary framework: Any pupil involved in the consumption, supply or possession of drugs or in acts of substance abuse whilst they are in the care of the School, whether on the School's premises or otherwise, may expect to be permanently excluded.



Deterrents: The School includes the use of sniffer dogs as part of this Policy to discourage pupils from bringing illegal substances onto the premises. Trained detection dogs may be used in random checks of dorms or common areas to identify the presence of drugs. This approach is intended to promote a safe learning environment, act as a deterrent, and support the School's wider commitment to pupil welfare and well-being.

The Head, and staff authorised by the Head, have the statutory power to search pupils or their possessions without consent in situations in which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil may have a prohibited item outlined in this Policy. The search will be carried out in line with the School's Search and Confiscation Policy.

The definition of a drug used by the Department for Education's 'Drugs guidance for Schools' is: *A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.*

The following drugs and substances are prohibited by this Policy:

- All illegal drugs (those compiled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- Any product containing any form of cannabis, including cannabis-infused products and cannabis oil.
- Volatile substances emitting a gas or vapour which can be inhaled.
- Misuse of over-the-counter and prescription medicines e.g. Alprazolam (trade name, Xanax)
- Psychoactive substances (known as New Psychoactive Substances (NPSs), known commonly as 'legal highs' (which are now illegal) and NOX (Nitrous Oxide)
- Vapes which contain drugs, including THC (cannabis), 'spice' (synthetic cannabinoids) and other substances, as well as nicotine.
- 'Smart drugs' which are not prescribed by a doctor and are used to enhance brain function
- the act of inhalation of glues, gases, solvents and aerosols to elicit a mind-altering effect is also prohibited by this Policy and considered as substance abuse.

4 Pastoral Support

Pastoral staff, alongside the Deputy Head Pastoral & Boarding, are trained to ensure their understanding of the adolescent drug culture is accurate and current, and that they are able to recognise and respond effectively to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse.

All teaching staff will explicitly support the School's objectives in drug education and enforcement of this Policy. Staff receive training so they can respond appropriately to pupils seeking individual advice and help.

All parents and guardians will be expected to support Bryanston's commitment to make Bryanston drug-free and its determination to deliver a consistent message that use of illegal drugs is incompatible with educational success, sound emotional wellbeing and integrity.

Pupils will follow a PSHE programme that will focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. The programme will concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices and



include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of respect for, and compliance with, the criminal law.

Conversations between pupils, House Parents, matrons and tutors build on the work done in PSHE. From time to time the School will also makes use of lectures to discuss with pupils the serious risks posed by the abuse of substances (including alcohol and tobacco).

The Medical Centre also plays an important role in promoting awareness about the risks involved in the use of illegal drugs (and tobacco and alcohol). Within the guidelines of the School's policy on confidentiality, pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances in confidence with any of the medical staff who will offer informed medical advice. The School Counsellors are also available to support pupils.

Informative websites for parents and pupils include:

- Talk to Frank (www.talktofrank.com)
- UK Rehab (www.uk-rehab.com)

Useful links for further national groups can be found on

www.turning-point.co.uk/services/drug-and-alcohol-support/useful-links

5 Sanctions

Any pupil involved in the consumption, supply or possession of drugs or in acts of substance abuse whilst they are in the care of the School, whether on the School's premises or otherwise, may expect to be permanently excluded. Involvement in the supplying/distributing/providing of drugs, is considered to be an aggravating feature of the standard offence.

In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances and the Head may decide to suspend the pupil from School and subsequently readmit them into School on the condition they are enrolled on the School's Drugs Testing Programme.

We reserve the right to inform the Police of the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence and there will be occasions when it is the School's duty to do so.

Please note: the possession of drugs paraphernalia is unacceptable and breaches of this rule will result in suspension.

6 Drugs Testing

Certain pupils are enrolled on the School's Drugs Testing Programme. These pupils will include those readmitted to the School in circumstances outlined above and will also include certain other pupils about whom there are pastoral concerns.

Furthermore, the School may require any pupil about whom there are suspicions of involvement in a drugs-related incident or drug taking, whether in school or out of school, to submit to drugs testing, as outlined in the Terms and Conditions of the School. Drugs testing does not require consent from parents but the School will inform parents that it has taken place.



The testing procedure:

- A pupil will be asked to supply a sample of saliva or urine
- The sample will be taken under staff supervision and care will be taken to respect the pupil's privacy
- The procedure will be carried out in the Medical Centre by trained staff and in accordance with standard good practice outlined by MOSA
- Care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the sample provided is genuine and uncontaminated
- The pupil will be asked to sign a form to say they are satisfied with the procedure and give consent for results to go to Senior Deputy Head
- The outcome of the test, whether positive or negative, will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record
- Pupils and parents will be notified of the results as soon as is possible

Contaminated vape liquid:

Where there is reason to believe that vape liquid may contain THC or 'spice', the School may require the pupil to undertake a saliva drugs test. This is simple, non-invasive procedure – similar to a Covid test – that produces accurate results within minutes. Parents will always be contacted be informed the test has taken place, and the result shared with the pupil and the parent.

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- Bryanston School Rules and Regulations
- Bryanston School Behaviour Policy
- Bryanston School Search and Confiscation Policy
- Bryanston School Smoking and Vaping Policy