



Drugs Policy

Blatchington Mill School believes that drug use and misuse is a matter that concerns the whole community and therefore an effective school policy is one that takes a broad, considered approach, addressing the needs of young people, the school, parents and the community.

A drug is any substance which, when taken into the body, affects the chemical composition of the body and how the body functions. Obviously some substances will have more serious immediate consequences than others and the school's response may reflect this.

The basic aims underlying this policy are to:

- Protect as far as possible the interests of all young people within the school
- Develop positive relationships and images within the school
- Tackle those dealing drugs more severely than users
- Reinforce the educational emphasis on knowledge, awareness, self-esteem and
- skill development

Blatchington Mill School recognises the fact that many young people will be presented with the opportunity to try drugs. In 2007 a Health Related Behaviour Survey of Year 10 in Brighton & Hove schools found that over 30% had tried drugs (cannabis for the majority of those). In recognising this, the school is ensuring that students receive a comprehensive education in drug awareness and that should any individual young person have problems with drugs, sympathetic help and support will be made available.

The goal of drug and alcohol education is: For pupils to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, promote responsibility towards the use of drugs and relate these to their own actions, both now and in their future lives.

Blatchington Mill School supports the above statement and has a commitment to the provision of a drugs education programme. The PSHE course within the school has a variety of modules dealing with substance use and misuse including inputs from the local police Schools Liaison Officer.

Blatchington Mill School welcomes the involvement of visitors from external agencies in the PSHE programme to complement the core delivery by teaching staff. All visitors are supported in the classroom by a teacher and are informed of the school's drug education policy and the scheme of work for PSHE. The school currently works with the School Police Liaison Officer, WPC Vicky Jones who supports lessons in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11. Blatchington Mill also works with Ian Smith the Connexions worker who coordinates a Reflect Programme, which has a focus on Self-Esteem and drug education. This programme culminates in a trip to RU-OK? (The Brighton and Hove Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Misuse Centre on Ovest St in Brighton).

The science course incorporates some work on substance misuse in modules on healthy lifestyles and as part of upper school GCSE work. Sixth Form students are able to develop their knowledge and awareness by participating in health day events. Members of staff will use their professional judgement when individuals raise concerns or points for discussion within classroom situations. This policy applies to school organised events.

The pastoral system within Blatchington Mill allows students access to many members of staff who would be available for them as points of contact if they had problems or concerns. This may also apply to young people who are worried about substance issues. Whilst staff would not promise confidentiality on this issue, understanding would be shown and professional judgement used. Students at Blatchington Mill have access to a confidential counsellor from the Youth Advice Centre and the school also works cooperatively with local agencies to ensure that young people have access to, and the support of, these

organisations, e.g. RU-OK?, Connexions, the PSHE Healthy Schools Team, the NHS Stop Smoking service and Headspace (an early intervention team which work with young people to cope with psychotic experiences).

The climate of the teaching environment will be such that pupils feel secure and able to discuss issues relating to drug use and misuse within agreed boundaries, and to respond to each other with consideration and respect. Ground rules or working agreements are used in the PSHE and Citizenship programme and this emphasises the promotion of relevant personal skills. Pupils are shown respect for personal privacy and time is taken to explain the implications of personal disclosures. These ground rules are written or glued into the front of exercise books or folders after they have been agreed by the whole class. They are often referred to throughout the year. A variety of teaching and learning approaches are used in the PSHE and Citizenship programme. There is a place for didactic teaching methods within the programme, together with active learning approaches, such as role play, small group work and problem solving, which more effectively engage pupils in the learning process.

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DRUGS RELATED SITUATIONS

- Definition of drug related situation. - A drug related situation is one where there is suspicion, disclosure or observation of the use of unauthorised drugs or the discovery of unauthorised drugs.

Individual staff roles and responsibilities, including named senior member of staff – Blatchington Mill School does not allow anyone to possess, produce, supply or offer illegal drugs on the premises in accordance with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. any suspected illegal drugs found, or confiscated, on premises will be stored securely and arrangements made for collection by Sussex Police at the first possible opportunity. The designated senior member of staff for drug related situations is:

- Mr Jim Browning (Deputy Head Teacher)

In dealing with students involved in drug related incidents or activity the school will follow the guidance for schools on drug and alcohol education updated in 2003 by Brighton & Hove and East Sussex County Council. The school will also have regard to the procedural agreement for schools and the youth services in cases of substance misuse which is an agreement made by the local councils and Sussex Police. Blatchington Mill will use a repertoire of responses incorporating counselling, support and sanctions which reflect the different kinds of drug-related situations.

Procedures for managing a situation involving pupils, parents/carers or a suspicious substance.

Each case will be considered on individual circumstance, but a fixed period exclusion is likely after situations involving the discovery of suspected illegal drugs in order to allow enquiries to continue, as well as bringing home to pupils the gravity of the situation.

Only where there is evidence of 'dealing' will a permanent exclusion be considered. The school will treat more severely pupils who supply class A or B drugs or who supply for profit, than those who share class C drugs with friends, or possess class C drugs. A pupil's existing disciplinary record and the capacity of the school to provide further pastoral support, involving the CYPT and external agencies such as RU-OK?, will also be factors considered.

The response may involve several stages i.e.

- Investigation
- Consultation with senior management to consider response and whether to inform the police
- Contact parent/carer
- Contact the LEA and any support agencies
- Consider sanctions/support

- Assist with any police investigation

Some or all of these stages may be necessary. Fixed period exclusions may be used where appropriate and permanent exclusion is an option, particularly if supplying is involved.

Possible responses may be:

Student suspected or known to be involved in misuse of drugs/solvents/alcohol

- Involvement of pastoral staff
- School support
- Parents usually informed
- Offer of counselling
- Possible referral to YPSMS/RUOK

Student under the influence of drugs/solvents/alcohol

- Need for medical attention
- Removal from lessons
- Parents informed, collect student
- School support
- Offer of counselling, if appropriate
- Possible referral to YPSMS/RUOK
- Consider disciplinary measures which may include exclusion

Student found with suspected illegal drug

- Substance confiscated
- Police Schools Liaison Officer informed
- Parents informed
- Offer of counselling, if appropriate
- Consider disciplinary measures which may include exclusion

Student found with alcohol or solvents

- Substance confiscated
- Parents informed
- Offer of counselling, if appropriate
- Consider disciplinary measures which may include exclusion

Student found supplying any illegal drugs.

Students in possession of suspected class A drugs

- Substance confiscated
- Police Schools Liaison Officer informed
- Parents informed
- Offer of counselling, if appropriate
- Consider disciplinary measures, likely to lead to permanent exclusion

Confiscation and searching – Where there is reasonable suspicion of a pupil being in possession of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to voluntarily turn out their own pockets or bags. Pupils will not be forcibly searched. If a pupil agrees to being searched, this will be carried out by an adult of the same sex, with another adult present as a witness. If the pupil does not give their consent, then the police or their parent/carer can be called in to carry out a search. Any suspected illegal substance or solvents will be confiscated, and the school will ensure appropriate disposal takes place. Any alcoholic drinks will be confiscated.

Blatchington Mill School is a no smoking site and students must not bring smoking materials into school.

CONTACT IN SCHOOL

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