



## **DRUGS, ALCOHOL & OTHER SUBSTANCES MISUSE BY STUDENTS' POLICY**

| <b>Issue No</b> | <b>Author/ Owner</b> | <b>Date Written/ Reviewed</b> | <b>To governors for information</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
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### **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Backwell School is committed to the health and safety of its school community and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- 1.2 Backwell School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people.
- 1.3 Backwell School takes seriously concerns raised about the potential misuse of drugs, alcohol, and other substances by members of the school, as well as the illegal supply of these substances. The school will help and support children who have difficulties around drugs, alcohol and any other substance.
- 1.4 The school shares concerns expressed at local and national level, and therefore believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug use and misuse. The school takes a proactive stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the taught curriculum. Fundamental to the school's values is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents and the wider community, by keeping them involved and informed at all times. Effective communication and co-operation is essential for the successful implementation of this policy.

### **2. THE AIMS OF THE SCHOOL'S EDUCATION OF DRUGS AND ALCOHOL MISUSE**

- 2.1 To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing coping strategies.
- 2.2 To increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse, and the law.

- 2.3 To widen understanding about related health and social issues, particularly around mental health, crime and exploitation.
- 2.4 To enable students who are in difficulty and whose achievement and performance is impacted to identify sources of appropriate personal support.
- 2.5 These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experience in the taught curriculum, and the informal curriculum. Drugs Education is delivered mainly through the Personal Development curriculum, in tutor time, and in Science, but other opportunities to reinforce learning occur in other parts of the teaching programme – e.g. English, Sociology, Psychology and Philosophy and Religion.
- 2.6 The school will work with other agencies such as Health Professionals, Police Community Support Officers, Substance Advisory Service, Social Services, Education Advisers and Youth/ Community workers to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance misuse. Outside speakers making presentations will be informed of the values held within this policy.

### **3. THE ROLES OF THE HEADTEACHER and DEPUTY HEADTEACHER - CURRICULUM**

- 3.1 The Headteacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, also for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. In some instances, the Headteacher will delegate certain of these responsibilities to the Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum who will have general responsibility for ensuring the implementation of this policy through delivery of the curriculum.

### **4. RESPONSE TO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS, ALCOHOL OR ANY OTHER SUBSTANCES AND THEIR SUPPLY ON THE PREMISES**

- 4.1. The school will consider each incident individually and recognise that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents of a different nature. Following an incident on or off the school premises, parents will be informed as soon as possible by the Headteacher or Deputy Headteachers.
- 4.2. The school will take temporary possession of a substance to protect the student from harm and from committing the offence of possession. This is permitted in law. The Headteacher will be made aware of such incidents and the substance will be stored securely. School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance. The police

will be contacted immediately in every case and asked to remove and analyse the substance.

- 4.3. Appropriate counselling and support will be available to those students perceived to be at risk.
- 4.4. Where a student discloses to a member of staff that he/she is taking drugs or any other substance, the teacher should make clear to the student that the information will be shared with one or more of their:
  - Head of House / Year
  - Deputy Headteacher, Pastoral
  - Assistant Headteacher, Behaviour
  - Designated Safeguard Lead (DSL)

Given the seriousness of substance misuse, the student will be pointed to sources of confidential information and advice, and to treatment and rehabilitation services available to help those who are misusing substances. If a student admits to supplying or using drugs off the premises during school time, the member of staff should immediately inform the Deputy Head -pastoral or Headteacher, who will inform parents. The school will contact the Police.

- 4.5. The school will not allow its premises, at any time, to be used for the supply or use of any illegal drugs or substances (as well as tobacco, vapes or other legal substances that are considered contraband in school). Where it is suspected that substances are being used or sold on the premises, details regarding those involved will be passed on to the police.
- 4.6. A student in possession of an illegal substance on the way to or from school, and within school's jurisdiction before or after school, or bringing an illegal substance into school for his/her own use, or supplying it/passing it/selling it to others in school or on the way to and from school, will be liable for a Governors' Disciplinary Hearing and/or permanent exclusion since the health and safety of other students is directly at risk. At the very least, the student should expect to be suspended from school for a period of time. Parents will be informed in all eventualities. The school will try to ensure that the student and parents have access to professional support. The police will also be informed.

## **5. Review**

The school will review the effectiveness of this policy every three years.