

I POLICY STATEMENT

- The policy is designed to support School policy on Behaviour and Discipline, the Behaviour Code and the School Rules.
- This policy is designed to promote the health and well-being of staff and pupils at St Bede's College. In addition, it is designed to ensure that the College helps meet its statutory obligations under legislation such as Part I of the Health Act 2006 and its wider obligations under documents such as Every Child Matters.
- All pupils at St Bede's College must abide by this policy statement, the rules governing particular trips and visits and the laws and customs in the country they are visiting.

II ALCOHOL**1 ALCOHOL AND THE LAW**

In England and Wales the Licensing Law has been reformed by the Licensing Act 2003, and came into force in November 2005.

The Licensing objectives are:

- a. The prevention of crime and disorder
- b. Public safety
- c. Prevention of public nuisance
- d. The protection of children from harm

There are certain features of the Act, which relate directly to persons under the age of 18 years.

Protection of Children and young people.

- a. Children under 16 years to be allowed access to licensed premises only if accompanied by an adult.
- b. The legal age for drinking alcohol on licensed premises and for buying it there, whether as off-sales or on-sales will remain at 18. An exception allows 16 and 17 year olds accompanied by an adult to consume alcohol of less than spirit strength with a table meal on licensed premises.
- c. Other than the exception above, no person under 18 can buy alcohol in licensed premises, nor have alcohol bought for them for consumption in a bar.

2. SCHOOL POLICY ON ALCOHOL

PUPILS

- a. The consumption of alcohol by pupils during a school day in school is not allowed.
- b. Pupils must never be under the influence of alcohol whilst attending school.
- c. No pupil will bring into school any alcoholic drink unless authorised by Staff (eg items for the Christmas Fair).

3. ALCOHOL AND SCHOOL TRIPS

- a. Pupils attending a school function (eg a school trip, whether at home or abroad) will only be allowed to consume an alcoholic drink at the discretion of the Headmaster or Group Leader and providing it is within the law in England and Wales (see above). If the local law is more strict (eg USA) there will be an additional requirement to comply.
- b. No pupil should be allowed to consume alcohol without written parental permission.

5. ALCOHOL EDUCATION

The dangers of alcohol abuse are included in the College's PSME programme and form part of the curriculum in science.

6. DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK

A breach of Part II of this policy is likely to be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence and could lead to a pupil being permanently excluded (expelled) from the College.

III: SMOKING

7 INTRODUCTION

Under no circumstances may St Bede's pupils smoke or otherwise be in possession of tobacco products:

- a. on the way to or from College;
- b. at any point during the school day;
- c. at any event taking place at the College; and
- d. during any trip, visit, etcetera organised by the College.

8. TOBACCO EDUCATION

The dangers of tobacco misuse are included in the School's PSME programme and form part of the curriculum in scientific education. Disciplinary framework

9. DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK

A breach of Part III of this policy is likely to be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence and could lead to a pupil being permanently excluded (expelled) from the School.

IV: DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

10 INTRODUCTION

Part IV of this policy is consistent with the principles and recommendations of the HMC working party on drug related issues and has been reviewed in the light of the continuing work of the working party. The most recent review took place in Feb 2008.

The College condones neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances. The College is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being. The College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.

11. POLICY AIMS

The College attempts to support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and abuse:

- to provide accurate information about substances.
- to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- to encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance abuse.
- to widen understanding about related health and social issues e.g. crime, HIV and AIDS.
- to seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims will be fulfilled through aspects of the pupils' experiences in the taught curriculum and through the informal curriculum. We deliver the taught curriculum mainly through the PSME programme, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme.

12. DRUGS AND THE LAW

There are two main statutes regulating the availability of drugs in the UK.

- The Medicine Act 1968 governs the manufacture and supply of medicinal products (mainly drugs) of all kinds, and its enforcement rarely affects the general public.
- The second of the two acts, The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, is intended to prevent the non-medical use of certain drugs. For this reason it controls not just medicinal drugs (which will also be in the Medicines Act) but also drugs with no current medical use. Offences under the Act overwhelmingly involve the general public, and the penalties are far tougher than those under the Medicines Act even when the same drug and a similar offence are involved. Drugs subject to this Act are known as 'controlled' drugs.

The law defines a series of offences,

- unlawful supply,
- intent to supply,
- import or export and
- unlawful production.

The main difference from the Medicines Act is that the Misuse of Drugs Act also prohibits unlawful possession. To enforce this law the police have the special power to stop, detain and search people on 'reasonable suspicion that they are in possession of a controlled drug.

13. CLASSIFICATION AND PENALTIES

Maximum sentences differ according to the nature of the offence - less for possession; more for trafficking, production or for allowing premises to be used for producing or supplying Drugs. They also vary according to how harmful the drug is thought to be.

Class A has the highest penalties. This class includes the more potent of the opioid painkillers, hallucinogens, Methadone, Cocaine, Heroin, LSD and Ecstasy.

Penalties Possession:	7 years prison and/or fine
Possession + intent to supply, or supply:	Life imprisonment and/or fine

Class B has lower maximum penalties for possession and includes Cannabis, Amphetamines, Mephedrone, less potent opioids, strong synthetic stimulants and sedatives.

Penalties Possession:	5 years prison and/or fine
Possession + intent to supply, or supply:	14 years in prison and/or fine

Class C has the lowest penalties and includes tranquillisers, anabolic steroids, some less potent stimulants and dextropropoxyphene, a mild opioid analgesic.

Penalties Possession:	2 years prison and/or fine
Possession + intent to supply, or supply:	14 in prison and/or fine

Any Class B drug prepared for injection counts as Class A.

NB

- A conviction for Cannabis use would present a barrier for getting a visa for some countries, especially the USA.
- Passing a joint around at a party can be deemed to be supply

14. EDUCATION

Education for Pupils

- All pupils will take part in a structured PSME programme, one element of which will focus on drugs and substance misuse.
- All pupils will receive factual information about illegal drugs, alcohol and tobacco during Biology and Chemistry lessons, and PSME lessons where they will also consider some moral and social implications.
- All pupils will be given the opportunity to consider the moral dimensions of drug misuse during RE lessons.
- In Years 8-11, pupils will hear a presentation given by a member of the Pastoral team, which will remind them of the School's drugs and substance abuse policy and make sure they are aware of the law and the practical and legal (rather than medical) consequences of drug misuse. These presentations will be followed-up by the opportunity to discuss issues in smaller groups.

Education for staff and parents

- Every member of the academic staff and all student teachers will be made aware of this Policy.
- Refresher courses are held for all staff at the approximate frequency of once every five years. Such events are often presented by external agencies chosen to give a broad and representative coverage.
- Newly appointed teachers and student teachers attend a familiarisation session. The session covers the Manchester drug scene, School Policy and practical issues relating to its implementation. Such sessions are advertised in the Staff Common Room and all staff are invited to attend.
- Key members of the non-teaching staff are made aware of the procedure they should follow if they become aware of drug misuse.
- This policy is also posted on the School website and hard copies are available to parents at any time on request.
- Practical advice is given about what a parent should do and not do on discovering their son's/daughter's drug use.

15 DISCIPLINARY FRAMEWORK

The College takes a very serious view of pupils who use or bring drugs and alcohol into school. Pupils can expect to be dealt with seriously, expulsion being the ultimate sanction.

Pupils at St Bede's College must not be in possession of non-prescribed drugs.

This note of guidance is made available to all members of the School community and to parents. It is also given to and discussed with pupils in U3 – U5 as part of the School's Personal, Social and Moral Education Programme. It is attached as Appendix 1 of this policy.

- The most serious disciplinary sanction (permanent exclusion) will be always available in cases of drug and substance abuse. Consequently, any such allegations will be investigated and adjudicated under the School's Exclusions Policy.
- However, permanent exclusion will not be necessarily the only sanction considered. In particular, where no threat to the well-being of others is deemed to exist, the School may consider whether to impose an alternative (lesser) sanction as part of a bespoke programme of medical and other assistance designed to help the pupil overcome his drug-related problem.
- Where a pupil is permanently excluded for drugs and substance abuse, he will be able to appeal the decision to the Governors. The appeal procedure is set out in the School's Exclusions Policy.

Appendix 1

Simple Statement to St Bede's Pupils on Drugs and Substance Abuse

- It has always been the policy of the School to assume that its pupils are intelligent and capable of independent thought. From this follows the assumption that any member of the School who decides to become involved in any way with banned or illegal substances has firstly taken a conscious decision to do so, and secondly has weighed up all the implications involved in that act.
- One implication that must be faced by any pupil taking a decision to use drugs, is that in doing so, he/she will forfeit his right to a place at the College, and so place in jeopardy his/her continued presence as a member of the College.
- Pupils who are suspected of being involved in drug-related activities will be subject to a detailed investigation.
- If a pupil is caught either using drugs or in possession of drugs in College, the penalties will be severe.
- Pupils who are involved in supplying or trading must expect to be required to leave the College. Pupils who are caught in possession of drugs for their own use will be excluded and may be required to leave the College.
- "Supplying" means offering to supply, even if unable to fulfil the offer, and includes giving a drug to a friend. The College's view of the offence is the same whether the offence takes place on College premises or not.
- "Trading" means selling or exchanging for something of value. Once again, where the offence takes place does not affect the College's view of the severity of the offence.
- "Own use" means exactly that. It assumes that the drugs were obtained outside College and were not offered to, given to or sold to anybody else.
- Subject to the College's discretion, a pupil may be re-admitted following a drug-related offence. When this is the case, the school reserves the right to require medical evidence that he is no longer using illegal substances; and that evidence may take the form of random drug testing for the remainder of the pupil's time at St Bede's College.
- Drug testing following readmission will be carried out by an independent organisation nominated by the College and with full 'chain of custody' safeguards. Such testing will be paid for by the pupil's parent or legal guardian.
- In the event of a test proving positive the pupil must expect to be required to leave the College.
- A pupil who has been re-admitted to the College subject to random drug-testing and who refuses to take a test must expect to be required to leave the College.
- Pupils and their parents must expect that when a drug-related problem comes to light, the police may be informed.
- Teachers, and most members of the non-teaching staff cannot offer confidentiality to a pupil who wants to disclose his/her illegal use of drugs. However, the College will act with sensitivity towards any member of the College community with a drug-related problem who wishes to seek help to overcome it. The College Matron is available for confidential discussion and will apply the normal code of confidentiality appropriate to their profession.