



OLD BUCKENHAM HALL

A leading co-educational preparatory school for children aged 2-13 years

Misuse of Substances Policy

OBHP26

Policy owner: School Nurse
Date of issue: October 2018
Date last reviewed: August 2023
Next review due: August 2024

Misuse of Substances Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with Behaviour Policy, PSHE and Safeguarding policies.

Smoking and Vaping

- The school actively discourages smoking and vaping and is a no smoking site.
- Smoking is covered as part of the Science and PSHE curriculum and as part of the leavers' programme. Pupils are not only taught the health dangers of smoking and passive smoking but are also taught how to resist peer pressure.
- Any pupil found in possession of tobacco products or in the act of smoking will be subject to sanctions.

Alcohol

- The school adopts a policy, which prohibits the consumption of alcohol by those under the legal age.
- All pupils are taught about the potential dangers of alcohol abuse as part of the Science and PSHE curriculum and during their leavers' programme.
- Any pupil found under the influence of alcohol will be subject to sanctions.

Illegal Substances

- Pupils are taught about drugs, drugs and the law and how to resist peer pressure as part of the Science and PSHE curriculum and as part of the leavers' programme.
- Any pupil found in possession of or under the influence of illegal substances will be subject to sanctions.

Procedures for Staff

The Headmaster should be notified immediately if any evidence of alcohol, smoking, drug or substance misuse is uncovered.

If intoxication is observed on school premises or school trips the following points should be considered.

- Alcohol and/or drug intoxication should be treated seriously, and the pupil must be kept under close observation.
- Consider other causes for the pupil's physical state. (e.g. Head injury, diabetes, epilepsy - all the above could be combined with alcohol or drug use)
- A history of the drinking or drug episode should be taken from, not only the pupil but also any other witnesses. Remember children rarely drink on their own; there may be more than one intoxicated person.
- The type and quantity of the alcohol, and the period over which it was consumed should be ascertained.
- A pupil who has had a head injury or can't describe the events of the incident should be taken to hospital.
- If there is loss of consciousness due to drug use / intoxication or disclosure of overdose with no physical symptoms, standard emergency procedures should be followed. An unconscious pupil should be placed in the recovery position and an ambulance called.

The Role of the Headmaster - In the event of an alcohol or drugs related incident, the Headmaster must be aware of any safeguarding concerns and will need to assess the following:

- The legal position - what alcohol/drugs are involved, the nature of the offence (personal use, supplying or selling)
- The involvement of outside agencies - this could include informing the police where appropriate
- The geographical boundaries of the policy - where the incident took place
- The involvement of parents
- The general attitude and response of the child
- Health and welfare procedures - including support that OBH can offer
- Arrangements for recording incidents and possibly managing samples

School Sanctions

The response needs to be based on a sensitive assessment of all the information available. This response could include any of the usual school disciplinary procedures, up to and including expulsion. Pupils and parents should assume that the minimum sanction to be applied in the event of an alcohol, smoking or drug related offence shall be suspension from the school. A drug related offence is likely to lead to expulsion from the school. The Headmaster may seek advice from the local youth police liaison officer on any of these issues and will decide whether this information passes to the next school.

Policy Review

This Policy will be reviewed annually or when there are changes in legislation or regulations.