

# Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Central Hub Brighton

The Connected Hub and Brighton and Hove Pupil Referral Units

<b>Approved by:</b>	Co-Head Teachers	<b>Date:</b> January 2023
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**Note:** Central Hub Brighton operates with a Management Committee as its governing body. For all references to Governing Body and Governors in this document, the duties and responsibilities will be carried out by the CHB Management Committee and its members

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## **Introduction and rationale:**

The aim of this policy is to acknowledge and clarify Central Hub Brighton’s role in drug prevention and education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils’ needs.

The policy provides information and guidance about drug education, as well as procedures to respond to any drug-related incident, for pupils, teachers, support-staff and outside agencies or individuals.

The policy aims to ensure that the approach taken on the issue of drugs is a whole-school one and is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole school community.

Teachers will need to be confident and skilled to teach drug education and pupils need to receive up to date, relevant and accurate information as well as support. This policy aims to make clear procedures for responding to and managing drug-related incidents. Sanctions for incidents will be consistent with the school’s behaviour policy.

- This policy should also be read in conjunction with the following:
- Relationships and Personal Social and Health Education policy
- Medicines policy
- Health and safety policy and procedures
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities policy

This policy applies at all times to the school premises, school transport as well as school visits/trips/residentials.

## **Definition:**

“Drugs” are taken here to mean those that are legal, such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs, and illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD, Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and any other substances covered by the 1971 misuse of drugs act; psychoactive substances act 2016, or that is subject to a temporary class drug order(TCDO).

The school prohibits all substances having psychoactive effects on the brain: depressants, stimulants, cannabinoids, and hallucinogens.

The school believes that the possession and or use of such drugs in school, during the school day or while travelling to/from school is inappropriate.

The drugs/substances covered by this policy are not to be bought, sold or otherwise exchanged or brought onto school premises during the school day, or while pupils are on school visits.

Individual exceptions may be made for pupils who require prescription medicines where appropriate. In these cases there is a separate protocol to be followed around bringing medicines to school, storage and distribution within the medicines policy.

## **Drug Education:**

The school provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following: The National Curriculum science order outlines the content of the statutory drugs education:

- In KS1 pupils are taught that some drugs are helpful and some are harmful. pupils are encouraged to develop an awareness of why we take helpful drugs.
- In KS2 pupils learn the difference between legal and illegal drugs and their effects and risks.
- Key Stage 3, 11-14 year olds should be taught that abuse of alcohol, solvents, tobacco and other drugs affects health; that the body’s natural defences may be enhanced by immunisation and medicines; and how smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- Key Stage 4, 14-16 year olds should be taught the effects of solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs on body functions Some of our pupils may access science through their mainstream schools

In addition, other discretionary topics will be delivered through PSHE lessons, keyworker sessions and outside agencies, for example RUOK? and Drugs and Sexual Health Workers (DASH), and will reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills that will:

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices 2
- Promote positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
- Provide accurate information about substances
- Increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- Widen understanding about related health and social issues
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate advice and personal support

In normal circumstances will be teachers and outside agencies who will teach drug education. Agencies will be used in a planned way and their contributions evaluated.

Teachers will have access to on-going advice, support and training as part of their own professional development.

Central Hub Brighton actively works with agencies such as the Local Authority, police, health and drug agencies to support the needs of the individual and community in drug and substance misuse related issues.

### **Statutory duty of the school:**

The co-head teachers take overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Management Committee, parents/ carers, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The co-head teachers will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

A school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug (e.g. the preparation of, or smoking of cannabis). Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on or near the premises, details regarding those involved, and as much information as possible, will be passed to the police.

### **Search and seizure powers:**

School staff can search a pupil for any item if the pupil agrees. Headteachers and staff authorised by them have a statutory power under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting the pupil may have a 'prohibited item', which includes illegal drugs. School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline (eg, so called legal highs).

Where controlled drugs are found, these must be delivered to the police as soon as possible, but may be disposed of if the person thinks there is a good reason to do so. In deciding what is a 'good reason', the staff member should take into account all the circumstances and use their professional judgment to determine whether they can safely dispose of a seized article. Where staff are unsure as to the legal status of a substance and have reason to believe it may be a controlled drug they should treat it as such.

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs, schools should:

- ensure a second adult witness is present;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location
- record full details of the incident, including notes and discussions with student, also date, time, place and people present
- Inform parents/carers unless this is not in the best interest of the child

## **Implementation of the policy:**

In incidents involving substance misuse or supply on the premises/during the school day, and following discussion with the pupil and staff, action will proceed as follows.

The school has adopted the procedures as laid out in Drugs: advice for schools (DFE-00001-2012)

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with as per Appendix A
- In cases of substance use/misuse or supply on the premises, during the school day or during school visits etc, the case will be discussed with the young person and a written record taken (see Appendix C); parents/carers will be informed by the head or a designated person as soon as possible.
- The support of outside agencies will be sought if appropriate
- If a young person admits to using or supplying substances off the premises, the appropriate action will be to inform the assistant head or Head of Key Stage who will inform the Head teacher, who will inform the parents/carers
- While there is no legal obligation to inform the police, they may also be involved at the discretion of the co-Head teachers in consultation with Management Committee members and staff who know the young person well
- The school will consider each incident individually and will employ a range of responses to deal with each incident. Specific cases will be managed as per Appendix B: all staff, pupils, parents/carers will be informed of these issues.
- The Management Committee will be involved in drug-related incidents as they are concerning other matters relating to the school.
- The Co-Head teachers will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required in association with the Local Authority support teams.

## **Appendix A: Drug situations – medical emergencies**

The procedures for an emergency apply when a person is at immediate risk of harm. A person who is unconscious, having trouble breathing, seriously confused or disorientated or who has taken any harmful toxic substance, should be responded to as an emergency.

The main responsibility is for the person at immediate risk, but we also need to ensure the wellbeing and safety of others in the area. Put into practice the school's first-aid procedures using PPE.

If in any doubt, call medical help.

### **Always:**

- Assess the situation
- If a medical emergency, send for medical help and ambulance

### **Before assistance arrives If the person is conscious:**

- Ask them what has happened and to identify any drug used
- Collect any drug sample and vomit for medical analysis
- Do not induce vomiting
- Do not chase or over-excite them if intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance
- keep them under observation, warm and quiet

### **If the person is unconscious:**

- Ensure that they can breathe and place in the recovery position
- Do not move them if a fall is likely to have led to spinal or other serious injury which may not be obvious
- Do not give them anything by mouth
- Do not attempt to make them sit or stand
- Do not leave them unattended or in charge of another pupil
- Notify parents/carers

### **For needle stick(sharps) injuries:**

- Encourage wound to bleed. Do not suck. Wash with soap and water. Dry and apply waterproof dressing ensuring full PPE is worn whilst administering first aid
- If used/dirty needle seek advice from a doctor – ensure the needle is disposed of correctly unless needed for investigation

### **When medical help arrives**

- Pass on any information available, including vomit and any drug samples Complete a medical record form as soon as you have dealt with the emergency.

Complete a medical record as soon as the incident has been dealt with.

This form is based on Appendix 6 of Drugs: guidance for schools.

## Appendix B: Dealing with drug related incidents at Central Hub

Student comes into CHB in a state that strongly suggests they are under the influence of an illegal substance or have been seen smoking it.

Staff are able to assess some of the indicators such as a strong smell of alcohol or cannabis and changes in demeanour.

If we identify that student needs medical attention this will be our priority.

Staff make it clear to student that this is not acceptable at Central Hub Brighton and that the use of substances is illegal. Script available with words and phrases. (See over)

If student is able to access learning we will support them to follow the remainder of the timetable for the day. If student leaves the school site, we will contact parents as usual to let them know.

If student is *not* in a fit state to work, we will have no option other than to suspend them for the remainder of the day. We will organise a safe way for them to travel home. Usual suspension procedures followed with return to school interview.

Staff should

- Contact parent/carer by phone or text to say: E.g. 'We strongly suspect that \*\*\*\*\* has been smoking cannabis today'. 'We strongly suspect that \*\*\*\*\* has been smoking cannabis *again* today'. We have *seen* \*\*\*\*\* smoking cannabis / rolling and smoking etc.
- Record calls on SIMS register using code UI (Under influence). 1 for first incident in day, then 2 etc.
- Inform Co-Head/Head of Key Stage – discuss if student is not safe to stay on site.
- Record interaction and consequences on CPOMS

staff to record incident on CPOMS

DSL/DDSL refer to RUOK on regular basis (groups and individuals)

As picture of use emerges, key worker and/or Head to discuss again later including impact on college courses/work.

DSL/DDSL will forward CPOMS incident to social worker if

- Situation regularly reviewed including discussion at morning meetings.
- Repeat behaviour will lead to further interventions inc referrals to RUOK? and/or FDFP.
- Continue with staff training, parents invited into school or home visit, work with social workers other agencies. It is vital that parents/carers engage with us.
- Students expected to see RUOK? at lunchtime visits.

After 3 incidents letter sent home by Head. If continues further letter and parents/ carers invited in

*If we have suspicions of a student's involvement in dealing, we will automatically share this with the police (and social worker if applicable)*

## The script when you feel someone is under the influence

Denies

Give reason why you think this is the case. (Physical signs, eyes, speech etc., lack of engagement)

Students may not realise that the effects are showing. Ask them if they feel ready to learn

Agrees

See if you can find out what they have used.

Talk to the pupil about how this might affect their learning.

Ask them if they feel ready to learn

'You know we have to call/ text home when we think students are under the influence, and let Amanda and Lucie know.'

Being under the influence at college or work would probably mean you get kicked out (instant dismissal).

We are all here to help you understand how this will affect your adult life.

We can help you find a way to get off it if you want to.

Cannabis and other substances are still illegal.

Please use your professional judgement in terms of when to use this follow up script. If the student is keen to get back to their learning, you might want to revisit some/all of this later.