




THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL

DRUGS POLICY

Date of last review:	March 2024	Review period:	2 years
Date of next review:	Spring 2026	Owner:	SWC
		Approval:	



TBSHS: A truly all-round education



Purpose

The Bishop's Stortford High School acknowledges the national concern over the growing problem of substance abuse and wishes to state clearly its policy on these matters. TBSHS does and will not tolerate the misuse of drugs (including solvents) within the school and/or its grounds by students either representing the school out of school hours, or on any school organised trips or visits.

- The school condemns the misuse of substances including drugs, and the illegal supply of these substances.
- The school is committed to the health and safety of the members of the school community and will take action to safeguard their well-being.
- The school acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and related educational programmes in promoting the welfare of young people. It will seek, in co-operation with parents and carers, to support those in need.

To protect the safety and well-being of all students and staff, illegal or controlled drugs must not be consumed, possessed or bought, sold, or otherwise obtained on the school premises or during the working day, including when students are on organised trips or visits. Individual exceptions will be made for students and staff who need to take prescribed medicines (controlled drugs). Bishop's Stortford High School believes that as part of the care and welfare of its students it has a duty to:

- Develop students' personal and social skills to enable them to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy.
- Enable students to explore their own and other people's attitude towards drugs, drug use and drug users.
- Increase students' knowledge and understanding and to clarify their misconceptions about drugs.
- Ensure the safety of staff and students when on school site or when on any school trip or visit, residential or otherwise.

Relationships to other policies

This policy adheres to the advice of the latest Department of Education (DfE) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) guidance on drugs education (DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools, September 2012). This policy relates to the Behaviour for Learning policy, the curriculum policy, the health and safety policy and the personal, social and health education (PSHE) policy.

Roles and responsibilities of the head teacher, other staff and governors

This policy relates to all members of the school community. All staff have a responsibility for drug education and must be fully aware of this policy and its implications for themselves and for others in the community. Whenever adults interact with children, they recognise that they may be influencing attitudes and behaviour. The head teacher will ensure that:

- A drugs co-coordinator (Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral) is appointed to have general responsibilities for handling the daily implementation of this policy.
- The Assistant Headteacher: Sixth Form will lead any investigations relating to 6th form students.
- A planned drug education programme is provided as part of PSHE and science that reflects knowledge and understanding, attitudes and personal and social skills relating to drugs.
- Teachers are provided with training and guidance so that they are confident and skilled to teach drug education and to respond to drug-related incidents.
- Students are aware and are regularly reminded of the rules on drugs and of the consequences of breaking them. These clear messages are given in Senior Leader assemblies, Heads of Year assemblies, from visiting speakers representing drug related agencies and within PSHE.

- Clear procedures are in place for responding to drug-related incidents.
- Those students who have a concern about drugs are provided with support.
- Sanctions for incidents are consistent with the school's Behaviour for Learning policy.
- The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Police, social care, the Local Authority and drug related agencies to deliver its commitment to the Drugs Policy.

All staff are expected to:

- Report incidents of drug misuse to the Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral.
- Promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles.
- Enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

All teachers are expected to:

- Implement the school's drug policy .
- Enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practicing personal skills to resist peer group pressure and help friends and relatives involved in drug misuse.
- Deliver accurate and updated information about drugs.
- Widen their own and student's understanding of related health and social issues, e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV, AIDS and STI's, 'County Lines' issues and gang related behaviour(s).

All students are expected to:

- Follow the school rules.
- Alert a member of staff to any drug-related incidents on or around the school site, and with students going to and from the school and whilst on school organised trips or visits.

Parents/carers are expected to:

- Endorse the school's approach to drugs education.
- Work in partnership with the school to overcome the misuse of drugs.

The governing body will ensure that its members, especially the Student Welfare Committee, are well informed about the drug education programme, the potential for drug abuse and how the school intends to respond to drug related incidents.

Liaison between schools, with parents/carers and the wider community

TBSHS will work with other schools within the area to develop a consistent approach to support young people. This includes paying attention to the needs of young people as they transfer from primary to secondary school. We recognise that this and other aspects of community liaison is an important area to which we can contribute with the support of the Police, the Local Authority and other agencies.

The role of outside agencies

The Bishop's Stortford High School actively seeks to cooperate with other agencies such as the Police, Social Care, Local Authority and Health and Drug agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of drug use and misuse. Visitors from outside agencies who support the school will be informed of the values held within this policy. A member of staff is always present when visiting speakers deliver a classroom talk and when they address assemblies.

Response to possible drug related incidents

Any drug related incidents on the school premises or its grounds, or by students either representing the school out of school hours or on any school organised trips or visits will be investigated thoroughly by the Pastoral team. The school's general power to discipline (as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006), enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a

disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so (TBSHS's approach to conducting searches and confiscation can be found in the TBSHS Behaviour for Learning policy and in 'Procedures for TBSHS staff when searching a student.'). Complaints about searching should be dealt with through the normal school complaints procedure. If the school takes possession of illegal or controlled substances, the police will be informed. Students will be made aware that information ascertained during the course of an investigation cannot be considered confidential i.e. where the student is involved in the misuse of drugs. They will, however, be offered sensitive and appropriate support.

The Bishop's Stortford High School will consider each drug related incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the students involved, the other school members and the local community. Each case will be treated in accordance with these principles.

The school reserves the right to use drug testing kits should the suspicion arise that e-cigarettes, vapes, other smoking paraphernalia or an edible product is being used to consume illegal or prohibited drugs. The result of this drug test will be used (alongside other evidence gathered by the Pastoral team during a drug related investigation) by the Headteacher when making a decision on an appropriate sanction commensurate to a student's offence.

Any student found in possession, consuming, or participating in the purchase or sale of drugs or drug related paraphernalia is likely to be permanently excluded.