

ABBOTSHOLME

AN EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons Policy

Statements on the Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Weapons in school (at all times school includes boarding):

The school finds it unacceptable for any member of the community to be in possession of, use or supply any drugs or substances that are illegal, or that the Headmaster considers to be inappropriate to have and/or use at school. These acts are thus against the school rules. Being in the company of anyone carrying out these activities is also a serious breach of our rules.

Pupils may not have in their possession any drugs or medicines without the knowledge and approval of the Health Centre Nurse. The school reserves the right to test for drug abuse.

Pupils may not smoke or have smoking materials, matches or lighters in their possession.

Pupils and staff are expected to abide by the laws of the land.

Neither bringing alcohol onto school premises nor the consumption of alcohol by pupils are permitted on the school premises or on any school function or trip outside of school. The only exception to no alcohol being allowed on school premises may be at the Sixth Form Dinners. (see alcohol policy) No pupil may return to school after consuming alcohol or under the influence of alcohol.

Pupils may not have in their possession weapons such as knives, air guns or pistols, laser pens, fireworks or dangerous substances. The ignition of any sort of unsupervised fire by pupils on school property is not allowed.

Pupils are not permitted to remove equipment from laboratories or any other area of school.

Failure to comply with any of the above may result in a pupil forfeiting their right to be at Abbotsholme.

Drugs:

The school places the utmost importance on its responsibility for ensuring the health and safety of its pupils. The DfE has evidence to support the view that the age of 13 years is a threshold in terms of the risk of experimentation with illegal drugs, and it is crucial that drugs education is delivered to pupils well before they are likely to be drawn into experimentation. Abbotsholme is committed to working in partnership with parents, health professionals and appropriate outside agencies in promoting a responsible and healthy lifestyle.

INDEPENDENT BOARDING AND DAY SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGED 2 – 18

Abbotsholme School, Rocester, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, ST14 5BS: Telephone 01889 590217: Headmaster Mr S M F Ruscoe-Price
Telephone: +44(0)1889 590217 enquiries@abbotsholme.co.uk www.abbotsholme.co.uk

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Reviewed by TB, Director of Boarding on 17/01/2023

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A Definition of Drugs

Drugs are substances which alter the way the mind or body functions.

This policy covers:

1. Legal drugs such as: alcohol; tobacco and other forms of smoking (e.g. shisha); solvents; 'poppers' and substances known as 'legal highs'; and high caffeine drinks.
2. Prescription or over the counter drugs such as tranquillisers and pain killers.
3. Illegal drugs such as ecstasy, cannabis, cocaine, crack, heroin.
4. Any paraphernalia that is associated with the above.

Overview

The school actively discourages the use of drugs/substances and treats cases of use by pupils as serious misconduct.

- The use of drugs is an offence against the school rules. The school prohibits pupils having and/or using cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, matches, lighters, alcohol, illegal drugs, 'legal highs' and solvents on the school site or on transport and during excursions.
- Pupils below the age of 16 are not permitted to consume or keep high caffeine drinks on the school site or during school trips.
- Any detected drug-use is a serious offence. Those using drugs may expect to forfeit their right to remain in school.
- Trafficking in drugs will lead to automatic expulsion.
- If a pupil is found to be using drugs the Headmaster might, at his discretion, and if the pupil executes the necessary undertakings, offer the pupil the opportunity to return to school after a period of suspension. This would be conditional upon an agreement to undertake drug tests as and when required to do so by the Headmaster. If a pupil fails a drug test whilst under this regime the expulsion would, at that stage, become automatic.
- If any pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs, then he or she may be required by the Headmaster to take a drugs test in school. Failing such a test would be an offence against school rules, regardless of whether the drugs were taken on or off the school premises or in school time, and the pupil would then be subject to the same disciplinary approach as someone discovered to be in possession of or to be using drugs on school premises.

Medicines: Prescription and Non-Prescription

Pupils are not allowed to bring non-prescription medicines to school. Pupils who are required to take prescribed medication, as a course of treatment, must:

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- Bring a letter from home containing details of the medicine involved, frequency of administration and dosage.
- Provide the medicine in question in the original box with prescription and pupil's name and directions for administration.
- The medicine (including vitamins and homeopathic medicines and natural remedies) should go to the Health Centre where it will be kept under lock and key by the Health Centre staff, who will be responsible for administering doses. These same rules apply to boarders.
- Medicines, Homeopathic or natural remedies and vitamins from foreign countries must be shown to staff at the health centre. If the instructions are not written in English none of these will be allowed and will either be disposed of or kept by the Health Centre staff to return to the pupil's parent/ guardian.
- Collecting his or her medicine(s) at the end of the school day: It is the pupil's responsibility to do this.

The above does not include inhalers for asthma, epipens or any such other product that pupils are permitted to carry.

Alcohol:

Any day pupil suspected or caught with alcohol will be reported directly to the Deputy Head within 24 hours. Any boarder suspected or caught with alcohol will be reported directly to the Director of Boarding within 24 hours. If a pupil is suspected of having consumed alcohol, he/she may be asked to take a breathalyser test.

Boarders may be given a breathalyser test after returning from an evening out, before and/or after formal dinners, or if he/she is suspected of having consumed alcohol.

Boarders may not consume alcohol that has been brought into school by others.

Boarders may not buy alcohol when going to shops during the week, or when staying at school over the weekend.

Boarders may not ask someone else to buy alcohol for them.

Boarding staff may search bags after shopping trips if it is suspected that alcohol has been acquired.

Any pupil bringing or consuming alcohol on the school premises may forfeit the right to be at school. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Sanctions

The measures taken will depend on the individual circumstances and will be determined in discussion between the Head of Year and Headmaster. If the pupil is a boarder, the Director of Boarding and House parent will be involved in discussions and decisions.

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Responses could include one or more of the following:

- Contact with parents.
- Deputy Head, Director of Boarding or Headmaster's detention.
- Consultation with the Health Advisor.
- Gating. This period might include weekend evenings and is at the discretion of the Director of Boarding and the house parents. In the case of day pupils, their gating would consist of missing all breaks, for a period of time.
- Deprivation of specific privileges pertinent to that particular pupil.
- Suspension or expulsion.

Sixth Form Formal Dinner Policy

- The Head of 6th form is responsible for arranging these formals and co-ordinates meals, décor and invitations with the help of various pupils.
- Alcohol (Wine, champagne) may be served at these events.
- It is at the discretion of the Head of Sixth Form as to whether alcohol will be served and dependent on the behaviour of pupils at prior formals.
- The Head of Sixth Form must make parents and pupils aware that random breathalyser tests may be taken before and/or after the event.
- The Head of Sixth Form must make parents and pupils aware that no alcohol, other than that given by staff, may be consumed and if found to be otherwise, the pupil(s) concerned will face sanctions. These can be found in the Drug, Alcohol and Weapons Policy
- If alcohol is being served, staff present at the function will offer and pour a glass for those who would like it.
- Each pupil may have one glass of alcohol.
- Bottles of alcohol will not be left on the dining tables. Staff will fetch from a central point, pour and return the bottles to the central point. A staff member will then take all bottles through to the kitchen.
- The Head of Sixth Form will count the bottles when they are put out and again when they are returned.
- No alcohol may be consumed before or after the event.
- Neither day scholars nor boarders may bring alcohol onto the school property.
- Pupils may not leave the table during the formal dinner with the purpose of drinking alcohol that has been acquired.
- Day scholars may not return to the cabins after formals.
- Day scholars must be fetched from the formal timeously.
- Any pupil who is suspected of having consumed alcohol that was not supplied by the school either before, during or after the formal will be reported directly to the

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Deputy Head and Director of Boarding, both of whom will use their discretion about which sanctions should be imposed.

Drug and Alcohol Education

Priority will be given to a programme of education and support about drugs at all levels of the school via PSHE lessons, tutorials and workshops. Pupils, parents and staff will be regularly updated on developments in drug misuse to ensure that sensible discussions can take place and decisions can be made about the misuse of drugs.

The proprietor will be informed of the programme through regular updates and consultations.

Aims of this Programme

1. To provide appropriate and accurate information about substances, and to increase knowledge and understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
2. To promote the development of self-esteem, decision-making skills and knowledge that allows pupils to resist drug misuse, through addressing the social, legal and moral impact of drugs as well as the health considerations.
3. To support pupils towards the development of a healthy lifestyle, enabling them to make informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes.
4. To ensure continuity, progression, sensitivity and appropriateness of subject matter to the age and maturity of pupils, including those with special educational needs.
5. To comply with the requirements of DfE standards.
6. To be responsive to the change in the trends of drug misuse and to offer a sensible and consistent message.
7. To work in partnership with parents, health professionals, police, social services and other outside agencies.

Content

The content of the drug education programme is appropriate to age and maturity of the pupils. It is set within the PSHE programme and the science syllabus. This is taught as part of emotional health and wellbeing and sex and relationship education. Tutor periods are also allocated. The school's Head of PSHE will take responsibility for the delivery, evaluation and review of the drugs education programme. The Health Advisor and her supporting staff will be involved in the support and education of the pupils.

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1. KS1 and 2 pupils will be taught safety issues around medicines and household substances, and be taught a number of important principles concerning the workings of the body. The effects and dangers of alcohol, caffeine and tobacco will be explored.
2. KS3 and KS4 pupils will learn about the effects of solvents, tobacco, shisha smoking, caffeine, over-the counter medicines, alcohol and other drugs on the body, as specified by the National Curriculum. Pupils also look at this policy as part of a homework task and are encouraged to discuss it with parents. KS5 will discuss legal implications, effects of and consequences of drug taking.

Role-play, discussions, group work, structured games, audio-visual aids and an outside speaker will be used to complement the work of the school. Parents are also invited to attend a talk from the outside speaker. We actively seek to engage parents in this issue.

The Head of PSHE uses pre and post-topic surveys to assess awareness of these issues and assess the effectiveness of teaching strategies.

Information will be presented in an objective and balanced manner to help provide understanding of:

- The different types of drugs.
- Law enforcement in relation to drug offences.
- The physiological and psychological effects of individual drugs.
- The implications of drug misuse for the individual, family and society.

Appropriate teaching strategies ensure a safe learning environment in which this education takes place.

Responding to Drug/ Alcohol Related Incidents

When responding to situations involving drugs the following principles apply:

- All drug related incidents should be dealt with effectively and consistently.
- All situations will be carefully considered before deciding on the response.
- The Headmaster may, if he feels it is appropriate, open envelopes sent to the school address.
- The needs of the individual involved will be balanced against the needs of other students and the school as a community.
- The first response will be in line with existing school rules, codes and expectations i.e. questioning a pupil, written account, etc.
- The Headmaster reserves the right to drug test a pupil if he feels it is appropriate.
- Parents will be involved at an early stage.
- Support agencies will be involved if appropriate.

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- The police will be informed of incidents involving drugs or where substances cannot be identified.

Procedure for Staff

If a member of staff has a concern that a pupil has an involvement with inappropriate substances/drugs, then he/she should report the matter to the Headmaster with the evidence where applicable. The member of staff should NOT carry out an investigation unless requested to do so.

The Headmaster will then seek advice from appropriate agencies, including the police, School Medical Officer, etc. and then decide on an appropriate course of action.

Guidance for Staff in Supporting the School's Policy

School staff provide a powerful and influential role model for pupils. At all times the conduct, attitude and expressed opinions of staff must give a positive lead to pupils and reinforce a responsible attitude towards the use of drugs and alcohol.

School staff are expected to be vigilant at all times in relation to:

- Evidence of drug and/or alcohol misuse on the school site.
- Unexplained presence of strangers in the local vicinity of the school.

Staff Support and Training

- Awareness training for all staff is ongoing.
- School works closely with LEA authorities and other outside agencies.

Searches and confiscation: See separate policy

Review of this Policy

This policy will be reviewed regularly in response to the fluidity and rapidity with which the drug culture changes. Pupils' acquired knowledge and needs will change regularly, and the school has a responsibility to ensure it is meeting new demands as they arise.

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