

Smoking, Drugs and Alcohol Policy

BFIS Mission

“Our purpose is to engage our diverse school community in the pursuit of educational excellence and success for all students.” This policy is underpinned by our school guiding statement that states that BFIS educates the whole child, BFIS provides a safe, secure and stimulating environment and BFIS prepares children to live their lives honestly and with a spirit of respect for themselves and others.

Aims and scope of the policy

- Young people face pressures to use or experiment with drugs. BFIS aims to do all that it can to reduce those pressures, to educate students about the risks of involvement with drugs and to maintain an environment that is free from drugs and the culture of drugs. Such action is important in order to protect the health and the physical, emotional and moral wellbeing of its students, to encourage respect for the law, to maintain good order and discipline within the School community and for the protection of BFIS's reputation. Consequently there is Zero use and tolerance of tobacco related products, drugs and alcohol at any time while on campus or at any off-campus BFIS event. In accordance with this, we will maintain a NO TOLERANCE policy toward tobacco, drug and alcohol use.
- Drug, alcohol and tobacco incidents will be dealt with fairly and with the well being and health and safety of the whole school community being paramount as well as acknowledging the social and emotional needs of the individual students. The aim should be to provide students with the opportunities to learn from their mistakes, develop as individuals and re-engage with the learning process to fulfil their potential
- This policy applies to all alcohol, tobacco and controlled drugs (i.e. drugs for which possession or supply is an offence under the law) and also some that are not controlled such as solvents. In addition to its responsibilities towards its students, BFIS has its own duty under the law not to allow its premises to be used for drug-related activities. Under Spanish law this includes vaping related activities.
- The policy applies both while students are at school, travelling to and from school or taking part in any activity organised by BFIS, and to conduct by students outside school which may have an adverse effect within BFIS or on the reputation of BFIS. An action could be taken where one student supplied controlled drugs to another student outside school.

As described below, BFIS seeks to achieve its aims by (1) education and instruction, (2) advice and assistance, and (3) clear and firm disciplinary procedures. It seeks to do so in cooperation with parents, who are asked to give their wholehearted support to the implementation of the policy.

Parents and students are reminded that under the terms of the contract signed by parents a student may be excluded at any time if the Head of School is reasonably satisfied that the student's conduct (whether on or off school premises or in or out of term time) has been prejudicial to good order and school discipline or to the reputation of BFIS.

Education and Instruction:

As part of our ongoing commitment to prevention and wellness students are educated about drugs and their dangers through the Wellbeing and Counseling Programs, as well as the Science Programme. (for instance when covering the circulatory and respiratory systems) This education includes classroom teaching, group discussions and talks by experts from outside the school. Parent workshops are provided and resources are shared throughout the year on effective ways to communicate with children about drugs and drug use, up-to-date facts about current drug use and trends, and how to spot early warning signs of use and effective ways to respond.

Advice and Assistance *Important: see 'self referral 'Sanctions' section below.*

- Staff are expected to respond to a student who seeks information or help on drugs or personal problems; that help can take the form of referring the student to the school counselor.
- Staff and students can be provided with access to information about outside agencies able to provide advice and assistance. Counseling services are available in school. Counseling services outside school can be recommended to a student in appropriate circumstances, after consultation with his/her parents.
- Parents are asked to inform the Divisional Principal or Counselors if they have any reason to think that their child may have been involved with drugs, so that suitable non-disciplinary advice and assistance can be given. Parents should be made aware that a referral from them may lead to a disciplinary issue.

Disciplinary Procedures

- Involvement in tobacco, alcohol or drugs on campus or at any school related events includes possession, use or supply – each of these actions will be subject to disciplinary procedures according to our behavior policy. Disciplinary action may be taken when activities related to substance use and abuse outside of school which may have an

adverse effect within BFIS or on the reputation of BFIS. For example, action could be taken where one student supplied controlled drugs to another student outside school.

Investigation

BFIS will investigate any suspected involvement in drugs. The investigation may involve isolating a student; asking the student questions; asking the student to give a written account of relevant circumstances; searching the student and the student's locker and personal belongings; taking possession of property for analysis with the student or parent present.

Investigations will be conducted fairly and with sensitivity. The student's parents will be informed at the earliest opportunity. So far as practicable the student will remain accompanied at all times. Interviews will normally be conducted by the Divisional Principal, Head of School, and/or Counselor.

Where the Divisional Principal considers the circumstances of the case to warrant it, the police will be informed. Criteria for informing police must be consistent from case to case.

Sanctions for possession or use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs (as defined in the policy)

1. The automatic minimum sanction imposed will be a two day suspension from school. This will appear on the student's school record. Mandatory counselling at school and/or externally will be required.
2. If there is a second offense, the school reserves the right to permanently exclude the student from the school.

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