

Horizons Independent school

ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCE POLICY

Procedure/Guidance

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Reviewed by: RBoulton

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Introduction

This policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and the misuse of controlled drugs and other substances and applies to all pupils at Horizons Independent School irrespective of their age.

The procedures and sanctions may be adapted as appropriate to meet the policy aims and the circumstances of each case. Certain of the procedures can only be carried out during term time.

Horizons Independent School will give due regard to the DfE guidance document DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the behaviour policy.

Alcohol: means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.

Drugs and substances: means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs (psychoactive substances - legal highs) or legal drugs which can be obtained from a chemist, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.

Aims:

The aims of this policy are:

- To combine a balanced educational programme with strong disciplinary action against any pupils who misuse alcohol, drugs and substances
- To promote safety, welfare and good physical and mental health

Education

We educate pupils to understand the effect and risks associated with alcohol in relation to their health and well-being and the law and that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live. We educate by means of PSHE lessons and with liaison with external agencies.

Aims of the education programme are:

- Improving the pupils' knowledge of the physical, psychological, social and legal implications of alcohol and drug taking
- Helping pupils to make informed decisions about alcohol and drugs

The effectiveness of our drugs education provision is reviewed annually by

senior staff.

Pastoral care

We encourage pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about use of alcohol or drugs and substance abuse with a member of staff. Matters brought into counselling by a student, in circumstances which are genuine, will be 'ring-fenced' from disciplinary sanctions, but a pupil who contravenes this policy will face disciplinary sanctions.

Schools have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. Horizons Independent School will aim to distinguish between those who require general information and education, and those who could benefit from more targeted prevention.

Rules for Horizons Independent School

The rules forbid a pupil from:

- Any possession, use or supply of drugs and substances at any time
- Bringing alcohol onto the premises or being in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtaining or supplying alcohol to another, or being impaired by alcohol while on the premises or in the care of Horizons Independent School.

Detection

Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to alcohol or involvement with drugs and substances will be followed up and investigated. =

Sanctions

Any response to Alcohol, Drugs and Substance related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with those of the wider school community.

Alcohol: Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

Drugs: Anyone supplying drugs must expect to be expelled immediately. Anyone possessing or using drugs must also expect to be expelled. All incidents will be reported immediately to the police/LADO if appropriate.

Staff Training

Staff will be trained on how to recognise and manage issues involving alcohol, drugs and substances.

For issues involving staff use of alcohol, drugs and substances, see the Staff Code of Conduct.

Parents

Horizons Independent School will be alert to issues with family members misusing drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or a pupil chooses to disclose, this may become a safeguarding issue. The pupil's welfare and support needs will be considered closely.

If parents attending the premises appear to be under the influence of drugs or substances or alcohol, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the DSL and the SMT who may telephone the police. If the DSL reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and safeguarding procedures will be followed.

Searches for alcohol, drugs and substances

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. The search of a pupil of their possessions will be carried out in the presence of another member of staff. Parents will be informed of the search as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Searches with consent: School staff can search pupils for alcohol, drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his consent.

Confiscation: On confiscating alcohol, drugs or substances, staff should immediately pass the item to the senior staff. They will determine how the item will be dealt with, in accordance with the guidelines in the School's policy on searching and confiscation in the behaviour policy.

Support from external agencies

'Talk to Frank' - 24 hour confidential telephone advice about drugs is offered by the National

Drugs Helpline - 0800 776600 www.talktofrank.com/

Drinkaware - charity promoting responsible drinking and reducing alcohol misuse – www.drinkaware.co.uk

Open Door Youth Counselling - confidential counselling and support for young people on all matters - 0121 454 1116 www.opendooryouthcounselling.org