



Chalk Hill
Anti-Drugs Policy
including Smoking and Alcohol

Adopted by the Provision Committee on:

Chair of Provision Committee

Review date: June 2020

Members of staff responsible for review: Trust Leadership Group

Chalk Hill Drugs Policy

Context

The ethos of Chalk Hill PRU is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all students are enabled to develop their learning, social and personal skills. We strive to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities, challenges and experiences they may encounter in their future lives and this policy has been written in accordance with this ethos.

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management.

In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Aims of the policy

- To support Chalk Hill's priority to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of Chalk Hill community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum and other policies

This policy has been written with reference to national and LA guidelines.

Drugs on school premises

The definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, and fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, tents or any venue used by Chalk Hill at the time such as the venue for a school trip or visit.

- Medicines:

Chalk Hill has a policy and procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. We follow procedures recommended by Suffolk County Council Health and Safety guidelines

- Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Students and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents/carers will be asked to collect their children

- Smoking

Chalk Hill is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. Staff are not permitted to smoke on site at any time.

- Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises

- “Legal High” or Psycho-reactive drugs

Psycho-reactive drugs are not to be brought onto or used on Chalk Hill premises.

- Solvents

Chalk Hill will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of sniff products that may be inhaled.

Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents/carers, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents/carers, staff or students using drugs

Chalk Hill is aware of its legal responsibilities with regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents seeks to work in line with local and national guidance.

A member of the Senior Leadership Team will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies.

Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher.

All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems.

Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation.

Evidence of the use, possession, supply or intention to supply illegal drugs by a student will result in sanctions being applied, up to and including permanent exclusion. The Headteacher and Management Committee will determine the most suitable disciplinary action on the basis of the individual situation and in accordance with statutory guidance on exclusions.

A case conference will be called if necessary. Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.

Individuals in possession of drugs

In line with statutory guidance the staff at Chalk Hill reserve the right to search students, their bags, bedrooms (in the case of boarders) and possessions if they have reason to believe that they are in possession of prohibited items or substances. Chalk Hill's policy and procedure for searching students is set out on page 5 of the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

If prohibited items are brought in to school they will be confiscated. Prohibited items may be legally destroyed or handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored.

In particular, if any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, Chalk Hill may wish to contact the police for advice or to report it as a crime. The police may be involved if a student is suspected of having contact with an illegal substance. This includes possession, using or dealing. In such cases, the police will decide what course of action should be taken. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved.

Students can expect staff to use appropriate physical intervention, including restraint, if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Parents/carers will always be informed when this has happened. Please see the Safer Handling Policy for more detail.

Parents/carers will normally be informed (for a student) and other professionals such as the LA, Youth Service, Police, GP, Social Services will be informed or consulted as appropriate.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will

not be used against them. Staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

However, action will be taken to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk.

Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable students to benefit from continued education are preferable to exclusion.

Following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to students in distress.

Interventions will be considered if Chalk Hill feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parents/carers. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and referral to other relevant agencies.