

# DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY

## BRAMHALL HIGH SCHOOL

AUTHOR: J KENNEDY
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Bramhall High School recognises that it is normal for young people to experiment, test boundaries and take some risks. Drinking alcohol, smoking or vaping, and trying drugs is one of the ways in which some young people do this.

As a school, we seek to educate pupils about the potential harms to health and how using substances can place them at increased risk from others.

We have developed this policy in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

Our school is committed to:

- Upholding the Health and Safety Policy of the school.
- Providing a safe and healthy environment which is conducive to the education of pupils.
- Providing a robust policy which clearly outlines our approach to drugs and alcohol misuse.
- Developing and improving the policy by reviewing it after any incident.
- Educating pupils on the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

## 2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This policy has due regard to relevant legislation and guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026
- The Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026
- The DfE School Suspensions and Permanent Exclusions Guidance 2026
- The Children and Families Act 2014
- The Education Act 2011
- The Health Act 2006

This policy will be implemented in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Health and Safety
- Personal Development and PSHE
- Administering Medication
- COSHH
- Search, Screen & Confiscation
- Behaviour

## 3. KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Senior Leaders are responsible for dealing with any alcohol and drug related issues within the school. The school's Designated Safeguarding Lead is informed of all such incidents to evaluate all safeguarding vulnerabilities.

## 4. DEFINITIONS

Bramhall High School defines a "drug" as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works.

This definition includes, but is not limited to:

- All Illegal Substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Psychoactive substances and synthetic cannabinoids
- All Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Vaping products (including zero-nicotine e-liquids).

- Nicotine pouches (e.g., Snus, ZYN).
- Nitrous Oxide (now a Class C drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- Over-the-counter medicines misused as intoxicants

## 5. STAFF TRAINING

At Bramhall High School, we recognise that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff receive training in identifying pupils who may be at risk.

Training specifically equips staff to recognise signs of substance-linked exploitation, including County Lines drug running, child criminal exploitation (CCE), and child-on-child pressure.

## 6. DRUG EDUCATION

All pupils receive regular guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the Personal Development curriculum and within other subject areas such as drama, science and Beliefs & Values.

Drugs and alcohol features regularly as part of the pastoral education in the form of whole school and targeted workshops, form-time activities and assemblies.

Learning is delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of pupils and is differentiated according to individual learning needs.
Where appropriate, visitors and external speakers will join us to lead learning on drug and alcohol misuse.

## 7. SMOKING

In accordance with Part 1 of the Health Act 2006 and the Tobacco and Vapes Act 2026, Bramhall High School is a smoke free environment. This includes all buildings, out-buildings, playgrounds, playing fields, sheltered areas and the immediate vicinity around school grounds such as commuting paths to school.

The school recognises that it is a statutory offense to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

Pupils are not permitted to bring smoking/vaping or other nicotine products onto the premises.

This includes, but is not limited to, cigarettes, tobacco pouches such as Snus, e-cigarettes, cigarette papers, filter tips, lighters or matches. Disposable (single-use) vapes are entirely banned from the premises; possession implies the handling of an illicit/black-market product.

## 8. LEGAL DRUGS AND PRESCRIBED MEDICINES

We understand that some pupils may require medications that have been prescribed by a doctor, or other health professional.

Parents/carers have the primary responsibility for their child's health and should provide the school with all relevant information about their child's medical condition.

Medicines should only be brought onto the premises if it would be detrimental to the child's health if medicines were not administered during their time at the school.

The school will only accept medicines which have been prescribed by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist. Parents/carers must deliver the medication to school; pupils must not carry any medications about their person.

Medicines must be provided in the original container as dispensed and must include the prescriber's instructions for administration and dosage. Further guidance can be found in the school's Administering Medications Policy.

## 9. SOLVENTS

Pupils are not permitted to bring solvent based products onto the premises including, but not limited to, aerosols or compressed air.

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous solvents are stored safely and pupils will be supervised if they are required to come into contact with them.

More information can be found in our COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) Policy.

## 10. PERSONS FOUND TO BE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS OR ALCOHOL

Staff members found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be disciplined in line with their contract of employment.

Visitors to the school found to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school grounds will be escorted from the premises. T

he headteacher has the authority to ban persistent offenders from the school.

If there are concerns around an adult transporting children, whilst under the influence, police and children's social care will be informed.

Unless it is a medical emergency, or where there is aggressive or threatening behaviour, pupils suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol whilst on school premises will be removed from class and escorted to the Medical Needs Coordinator/Assistant where they will be kept under observation whilst Senior Leaders and the child's parents/carers are informed.

If a pupil is deemed unfit to remain on site, they will be kept safely in isolation under medical/staff observation until parents collect them.

Any decision to send the pupil home for a disciplinary infraction will be processed strictly as a formal, documented suspension in line with DfE guidance.

The pupil's parent/carer will be asked to remove the pupil from the premises if they are believed to be under the influence of drugs/alcohol and, as such, potentially pose a risk to their own health and safety and that of others.

If there are concerns around substances being in school, a search of the child's belongings/locker will be conducted.

## 11. MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

In drug related medical emergencies, trained first aiders will be summoned. A member of staff will remain with the casualty until the trained first aider arrives.

Other pupils will be removed from the immediate area, as soon as is reasonably practicable. Following assessment by the first aider, a decision will be made to ascertain whether an ambulance will be called.

The pupil's parents/carers will be telephoned and informed about the incident. If the pupil is felt to be at risk, the Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and children's social care, police or other relevant agencies may be contacted.

All accidents and incidents, including near misses or dangerous occurrences, will be reported as soon as possible following the school's Health and Safety Policy.

## 12. THREATENING BEHAVIOUR

Aggressive and threatening behaviour by pupils, staff or visitors under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be taken very seriously.

Where aggressive and/or threatening behaviour is displayed, Bramhall High School will not hesitate in contacting the police.

Any pupil, staff member or visitor displaying aggressive and/or threatening behaviour will be removed from the premises.

In the case of pupils, parents/carers will be contacted.

## 13. SEARCHING

Staff members authorised by the Headteacher can search pupils/bags/lockers, **with their consent,** for any item.

Staff members authorised by the Headteacher may use statutory powers to search pupils, **without their consent**, for the prohibited items such as alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco, cigarette papers, vapes, nicotine pouches. They can also search, without consent, for any item likely to be used to commit an offence, cause damage or harm, or any item that has been banned by school rules. The full list of prohibited and banned items can be found in our Search, Screen and Confiscation Policy.

Searches will be conducted by a same sex member of staff with another staff member present as a witness, unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon a second member of staff.

Staff members may require a pupil to remove their outer clothing including hats, scarves, shoes, blazers, coats and scarves.

Pupils' possessions will only be searched in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff unless there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if the search is not done immediately, and where it is not practicable to summon another member of staff. Staff members may use such force as is reasonable given the circumstances when conducting a search for alcohol, illegal drugs or tobacco products.

1. Any staff member may refuse to conduct a search. **School staff are never permitted to conduct intimate/strip searches.**

2. A staff member carrying out the search can confiscate anything they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item. This includes so called "legal highs" and other potentially harmful materials which cannot immediately be identified.

## 14. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

Following the identification and confiscation of a controlled substance, a staff member will seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the confiscation and the name of any witness/witnesses present. The staff member will store the sample in a secure location. The incident may be reported to the police who may collect the sample and then deal with it in line with agreed protocols. Prohibited items not given to police will be disposed of safely.

**In cases of suspected dealing/sharing of drugs/alcohol, Bramhall High School will not hesitate in giving the police the name of the pupil, from whom the drugs were taken.**

**A full incident report will be completed and submitted to the headteacher. Any further measures will be undertaken in line with the school's Safeguarding Policy and Behaviour Policy.**

**Where controlled substances are found on school trips away from the school premises, parents/carers of the pupil, will be notified and may be asked to collect their child from the trip location.**

## 15. DISCIPLINE

Pupils involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per the school's behaviour policy and, if appropriate, the police will be informed. Repeated involvement (or presumed involvement in cases where a pupil refuses to cooperate), refusal to engage with support, or suspected dealing/sharing may result in permanent exclusion from the school.

Teachers and staff members involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises will be disciplined as per their contract of employment and, if appropriate, the police will be informed. Repeated involvement, refusal to engage with support or suspected dealing/sharing may result in police being informed and termination of contract.

Visitors involved in drug and/or alcohol situations on school premises may be banned from entering school premises indefinitely and where appropriate, the police will be informed. Repeated involvement, refusal to engage with support or suspected dealing/sharing may result in police being informed and a ban from school premises.

## 16. SUPPORT

The aim of Bramhall High School is to identify and meet support needs. Therefore, any pupil believed to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol will, with parental/carer consent, be offered appropriate support.

## 17. MONITORING AND REVIEW

**This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.**