



Blundell's

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY

2019/2020

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Blundell's

POLICY AND SANCTIONS WITH REGARD TO DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Blundell's School tolerates neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the School nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Blundell's School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Blundell's School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the School's general ethos; it will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Alcohol Policy.

POLICY AIMS

Blundell's School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substance use and misuse:

1. To enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
2. To provide accurate information about substances.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
4. To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
5. To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

These aims are fulfilled through a programme of education arranged through the established curriculum, through the PSHE syllabus and through specially invited external speakers. The programme involves pupils of all ages and continues throughout their time at the school. Our Medical staff also play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved, and will offer informed medical advice.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries with their House Master/Mistress or Tutor or any other member of the Pastoral Team. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Staff and to the School Counsellor for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We also invite groups of parents and guardians to Information Evenings, and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of your son or daughter.

The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police, Social Services, and the Health Promotion Unit to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

The policy will be reviewed annually and in the light of any serious drug-related incident.

SPECIFIC POLICY AND THE MANAGEMENT OF INCIDENTS

1. Tobacco

The School rules state: Smoking and the possession of smoking materials, including e-cigarettes ('vapes') and shisha pens, are forbidden, regardless of the nicotine content. Pupils should not return to School having clearly smoked elsewhere. These are Serious Offences, and as such will be considered in line with the 'Notes on Serious Offences' guidance document.

All Smoking incidents are reported to a pupil's Housemaster/mistress and parents will normally be informed at the earliest opportunity. All offences will be reported to the Head. A first offence will attract a minimum of a week's Minor Gating and may require the writing out of an appropriate report which considers the damage to health caused by smoking. A second offence attracts a Major Gating, with a letter sent home. Thereafter the whole question becomes more one of consultation with parents in conjunction with the Gatings. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling (at the parents' expense) where we have reason to believe that he or she has issues with tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements. Continued abuse of the Smoking rule may well result in suspension or even expulsion.

E-Cigarettes and vaping are treated in the same way as other forms of smoking.

The School will always contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling tobacco or tobacco products to under age pupils and the Police may also be informed.

Members of staff (academic and non-academic) are reminded that smoking is banned across the campus both inside and outside buildings. It is also expected that staff should refrain from smoking in the presence of pupils at any time.

2. Alcohol

The School rules state: Alcoholic drinks may be consumed only at authorised School occasions. Alcoholic drinks may not be brought onto the school premises or campus. Drinking to excess under any circumstances is unacceptable. Pupils should not return to School clearly having consumed alcohol elsewhere. These are Serious Offences, and as such will be considered in line with the 'Notes on Serious Offences' guidance document.

The School is clearly bound by the Law of the land and those laws guide our policy. Pupils are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol. We believe that pupils in their final two years at the school should learn that the moderate consumption of alcohol has its place in our society when accompanied by food and lively conversation. Therefore, Sixth Form pupils may be served alcohol in moderation at certain formal School occasions usually accompanying a meal (e.g. School and House social events, Sports Dinners) but never in the absence of a member of staff. Non-alcoholic drinks are always available at such events.

In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to under age pupils, the School will personally contact the manager of the establishment involved and the Police will be informed.

Please refer to Appendix 1: Alcohol Policy, for more details.

3. Drugs

The School rule states: Taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden.

The definition of a drug used by the then DfES in 'Drugs guidance for Schools' is:

A drug is a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Drugs which are controlled/illegal substances (for example cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, LSD and mephedrone) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Also so-called legal or herbal highs, which are considered illegal under current medicines legislation to sell, supply or advertise for 'human consumption'.
- Over-the-counter and prescription medicines used improperly, which can include sleeping tablets and slimming tablets
- All legal drugs when misused including volatile substances and solvents, Ketamine, Khat, alkyl nitrites.
- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (for example analgesics or steroids)
- Drugs in a liquid format which can be smoked through an e-cigarette/vape.

The Head reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, based on the DfES definition of a drug above.

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Blundell's, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. All our staff have been trained in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse. Any member of staff or parent concerned that a pupil might be involved in drug abuse should inform the pupil's Housemaster/mistress immediately. We will always investigate rumours about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching his/her room and personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

The Governors have agreed a contract with a clause making it a condition of admission that parents of pupils accept the School's right to require a pupil to undergo a test for the use of illegal drugs or other substances damaging to health, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. A procedure for the testing of pupils who are suspected was established. Drug testing is organised by the Second Master in conjunction with the School's Medical Centre. Full details of the arrangements are available to parents on request. A test will only be required following consultation between a pupil's Housemaster/mistress and The Head (or in the latter's absence, the Second Master). Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a drugs test is conducted, to notify a parent, guardian or education guardian of the requirement for a drugs test and the reasons for that requirement

The Drugs Testing Procedure is designed to be constructive and to support those pupils most at risk of drug taking, to dispel ill-founded suspicion of drug taking and to act as a general and efficient deterrent. Our drugs sanction policy allows the School to exercise clemency where it is merited, or give support and advice to those who need it. It aims to encourage honesty and in certain circumstances to allow a pupil to recognise that he or she has made a grave mistake and to strive to make amends for it within Blundell's.

The Drugs Testing procedure can be found in Appendix 2

Our sanctions policy is as follows:

- i. Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be expelled.
- ii. Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs while under the School's jurisdiction in term time loses any right to immediate membership of the School and must expect expulsion to be a very strong possibility.

- a. In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.
 - b. The Head will normally consult the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it carries the possibility of being a criminal offence.
- iii. If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with illegal drugs is a positive drugs test, he or she may be allowed to stay in School provided that he or she
 - a. Gives a written assurance to The Head and to his/her parents that he/she will not become involved with illegal drugs again.
 - b. Agrees to undergo the drugs tests at various times during his/her remaining School career.
 - c. Agrees to take part in drug counselling if the School requires.

The same undertakings will also be required of any pupil who may be allowed back after an offence (see ii above) because of mitigating circumstances.

- iv. The scope of the School's discipline reaches to the point where there is a transfer of responsibility from school to parent. However, where it becomes known that drugs abuse is taking place outside school, then the School is then in possession of information, which could be deemed to be criminal and may thus:
 - a. Inform parents of the nature of what is being said.
 - b. Ask that there should be drug counselling.
 - c. Require that the pupil be drug tested in the future.
 - d. Talk to the local police about the matter.
- v. In the event of the School's reputation being brought into disrepute it will be the School's qualified right to invoke its full disciplinary procedures.
- vi. Any subsequent drugs abuse, including a positive test result, will result in expulsion. Semantic debate about drugs taken in the holidays or at leave weekends will not be conducted.
- vii. Solvent abuse is also a serious school offence. The School may react to solvent abuse in a similar way to other forms of drug abuse.

LINKS TO OTHER RELATED POLICIES and DOCUMENTS:

Alcohol Policy
Safer Working Practice / Code of Conduct
Whistleblowing
Health and Safety
Rewards and Sanctions
Behaviour Management
School Rules and Notes for Guidance
Notes on Serious Offences (guidance document)

Reviewed MRJR
Autumn 2019

UPDATES AND REVIEWS

AUGUST 2017

A new Alcohol Policy was introduced and hence the section on Alcohol in this policy has been reduced with reference to the more details Alcohol Policy made.

AUTUMN 2018

Addition of liquid drugs/e-cigarettes

AUTUMN 2018

Added reference to Notes on Serious Offences (guidance document)

Amalgamation of Alcohol Policy as Appendix 1 within this document.

Moved Drug Testing Procedure to Appendix 2



Appendix 1: ALCOHOL POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Looking after the well-being of Blundell's pupils is the primary focus of this policy. Alcohol consumption by young people is widely accepted in society and pupils are often under pressure to drink, sometimes to excess. As a school we feel strongly that pupils should receive a clear and coherent message about alcohol consumption and that the culture we create at Blundell's will lead to pupils having a healthy attitude towards alcohol, by which, as adults, they are able to enjoy drinking in moderation whilst being aware of the risks associated with drinking excessively.

This policy draws upon the advice given by the **Drinkaware Trust** (www.drinkaware.co.uk), an independent alcohol education charity. Research indicates that there are numerous risks associated with excessive drinking. These may include:

- **Health Risks**

Drinking alcohol can increase the risk of developing liver disease and young people who drink regularly are also at risk and start to damage their livers without realising.

Anyone who drinks a lot in a short space of time can suffer alcohol poisoning. The level of alcohol gets so high that it can seriously affect the parts of the brain that control balance and speech, as well as affect the nerves that control your breathing and heartbeat and lower your body temperature, which can lead to hypothermia. It can also cancel your gag reflex, putting you at serious risk of choking to death, especially if you vomit.

- **Accidents and injuries**

Drinking alcohol can reduce a child's mental and physical abilities at the time, affecting judgment and co-ordination – which can lead to mishaps and sometimes accidents and injuries. Due to a young person's lower body weight and limited ability to metabolise alcohol, acute intoxication can occur rapidly in children and young people. Research shows adolescents who tested positive for alcohol were more likely to get injured or have accidents than non-drinkers.

- **Brain Development**

During childhood and teenage years, the brain is still developing. Alcohol can affect memory function, reactions, learning ability and attention span – all especially important during school years.

- **Mental Health**

Excessive drinking can be both a cause and a symptom of mental health matters. Young people may drink in order to cope with life circumstances rather than address them in a more constructive manner. Evidence also suggests that alcohol can lead to mental health problems later in life.

- **Vulnerability**

The teenage years are often a very tricky time for young people – both emotionally and physically. Their natural tendency can be to experiment and take risks is increased. Drinking alcohol can put them in vulnerable or dangerous situations. Under the influence of alcohol, judgement is impaired

and they can find themselves in dangerous situations. Young people are more vulnerable to experimenting with drugs and other substances and are more likely to engage in unprotected or unwanted sexual activity.

The aim of this Alcohol Policy is to encourage a mature approach by young people to alcohol consumption, and respect for those who choose not to drink. Because the risks of alcohol consumption are age related and there are different legal positions (See Appendix 1), the policy also makes a clear distinction between alcohol consumption by Sixth-Formers and by pupils in lower years.

To achieve these objectives we set out to state our rules clearly, to educate coherently and to deter through disciplinary action, where appropriate.
We expect all staff, parents and visitors to support the policy.

2. STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT PUPILS

Blundell's undertakes to support pupils who may have questions regarding alcohol, who are concerned about alcohol use or abuse, or who may need support in any other way. There are a number of ways in which the school aims to educate and support pupils as they learn to deal with alcohol.

The aim is to enable pupils to make healthy, informed decisions by increasing knowledge and understanding. To challenge preconceived attitudes and to develop positive communication and social skills, and to provide accurate and appropriate information.

- **PSHE**

In the first instance, we aim to educate and inform pupils so that they have the facts and information required to develop an understanding of the dangers associated with alcohol and how alcohol can be consumed responsibly and sensibly. The PSHE syllabus deals with the matter in an age-appropriate manner and different points in the curriculum. As part of the PSHE programme, speakers come in to address pupils on a variety of matters including alcohol and alcohol abuse.

- **Medical Centre**

The medical team in the Medical Centre are well placed to advise pupils and to support pupils who have questions or who want further support.

- **School Counsellor**

The school counsellor is available to pupils and can be contacted directly.

- **House Parents and Tutors**

House Parents and Tutors will constantly advise and support pupils through the normal day-to-day Blundell's routines. They will be vigilant of matters that arise amongst pupils and will address them in house or in tutor groups as they arise. Where matters arise within houses the House Parent is expected to communicate concerns with the Second Master.

3. RULES

- a. Pupils must not be in possession of alcohol or engage in unsupervised drinking whilst in school.
- b. Pupils in the Upper Sixth may request a 'Pub Leave' that may be given at the House Parents' discretion. In such instances pupils should be mindful of their responsibilities as members of the school in the local community. Drinking should be moderate and only with a meal.
- c. House Parents, or staff acting on behalf and with the knowledge of, the House Parent, may offer beer or wine with a meal at their discretion to Sixth Form pupils under their personal supervision.

- d. Sixth Formers may be allowed specified and monitored consumption of alcohol at certain, formal school functions where a meal is served. Permission for alcohol to be served at these events must be sought from the Head or Second Master. If these events happen on a school night it is unlikely that permission will be given. Attractive options of non-alcoholic drinks will always be available at such events. If alcohol is served House Parents are duly informed.
- e. The purchase or supply of alcohol to other pupils is considered a serious offence. Any pupil found to have supplied alcohol in Houses or in the school as a whole are likely to receive a serious sanction from the School.
- f. Specified and monitored low level consumption of alcohol may be offered with a meal to Sixth Form pupils on a school trip. Parents will have been informed.
- g. Pupils who arrive at a school function having consumed alcohol prior to the function may not be allowed to attend the function and are likely to be sent back to house or their parents will be asked to collect them.
- h. Rules on alcohol apply to pupils on and off the school premises during term time (whilst in the care of the school), school outings and expeditions. They also apply on journeys to and from school, on exeats, at the beginning and end of term and at half term.

Pupils must not bring the school into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. The School may use a formal sanction to reinforce the message with regards to excessive and irresponsible consumption of alcohol.

4. WELFARE

If a pupil is found under the influence of alcohol the initial priority is the well-being of the individual. Help should be sought from the Medical Centre and the pupil's House Parent should be informed. Subsequent action will be determined and agreed by the Medical Centre and the House staff.

It may be necessary to monitor the pupil until the effects of the alcohol wear off and in some cases the pupil may be admitted to the Medical Centre and supervision provided by nursing staff. Day pupils' parents will be contacted and asked to collect their child when it is safe to do so.

If a pupil is seriously ill then House Staff should inform parents as soon as possible. The pupil will only be allowed to return to his/her house on the advice and direction of the Medical Centre staff.

Pastoral support will be offered after the incident with the possible referral to the School Counsellor or further support may be accessed through the Medical Centre.

5. SUSPICION OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

If a member of staff considers it likely that a pupil has consumed alcohol in breach of the rules the pupil will be challenged. If the pupil admits to the offence then the normal disciplinary procedure will be followed. If the pupil denies consuming alcohol, but there is reasonable cause to suspect otherwise (smell, behaviour, etc.) then an investigation will be conducted by the House Parent to determine a 'balance of probability'. Such an investigation will follow the steps as set out in the Disciplinary Policy.

For any drinking offence parents will be informed and if the situation requires it, parents may be invited to a meeting with the Head or the Second Master. If a pupil is suspected of being in possession of alcohol a search may be conducted according to the School's guidance on searches.

6. DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS

Pupils who break the rules on alcohol as set out above, or who are found to be aiding and abetting the consumption of alcohol, will be interviewed by their House Parent or the Second Master who will discuss appropriate action. Breaches of the school rules on alcohol are Serious Offences, and as such will be dealt with in line with the school's 'Notes on Serious offences' guidance document.

In considering the appropriate punishment the following may be taken into account:

- The level of consumption as indicated by evidence of consumption or visible intoxication.
- The Year group of the pupil involved (Y9-11 pupils will typically receive a tougher sanction than Sixth Formers for low level consumption).
- Whether the pupil has purchased or supplied drink to other pupils.
- Whether the pupil has overindulged with alcohol at a school function.
- The record of the pupil – particularly with regard to alcohol.

For example, a low level drinking offence in the Sixth Form may draw a Minor Gating for a first offence whereas a junior pupil with a history of alcohol related offences or one who has supplied alcohol may receive an External Suspension. Sanctions can therefore draw on the full range of available punishments. Parents will always be contacted if their son/daughter is found guilty of an alcohol related offence. All alcohol related offences will be recorded in the Second Master's Sanctions Register.

MRJR Autumn 2019



APPENDIX 1 Addendum: UNDERAGE DRINKING AND THE LAW

If a person is under 18 and drinking alcohol in public, they can be stopped, fined or arrested by police.

UNDER 18

It is against the law:

- For someone to sell you alcohol
- To buy or try to buy alcohol
- For an adult to buy or try to buy alcohol for you
- To drink alcohol in licensed premises (eg a pub or restaurant)

However if someone is **16 or 17** and accompanied by an adult, they can drink (but not buy) beer, wine or cider with a meal.

16 OR UNDER

They may be able to go to a pub (or premises primarily used to sell alcohol) if they are accompanied by an adult. However, this is not always the case. It can also depend on:

- The specific conditions for that premises
- The licensable activities taking place there

It is not illegal for a child aged five to 16 to drink alcohol at home or on other private premises.

It is illegal to give alcohol to children under 5.

The UK Chief Medical Officers (CMO) recommend that parents should not allow their children to drink alcohol at home under the age of 15.

Children and their parents and carers are advised that an alcohol-free childhood is the healthiest and best option. However, if children drink alcohol, it should not be until at least the age of 15 years.

If young people aged 15 to 17 years consume alcohol it should always be with the guidance of a parent or carer or in a supervised environment.

Parents and young people should be aware that drinking, even at age 15 or older, can be hazardous to health and that not drinking is the healthiest option for young people. If 15 to 17 year-olds do consume alcohol they should do so infrequently and certainly on no more than one day a week. Young people aged 15 to 17 years should never exceed recommended Government guidelines.



Appendix 2: DRUG TESTING PROCEDURE

Testing for Misuse of Drugs

1. The pupil will attend the Medical Centre accompanied by a member of staff. The second master will be “the tester” and will carry out the test. A nurse from the Medical Centre will be present, as a witness.
2. The school will pay for the Drug Test.
3. The pupil will be informed that the reason for using the Medical Centre facilities is to ensure privacy and to allow the test to go ahead without interruption.
4. The School Doctor or the Nurse will not be involved in the testing.
5. Parents will be informed as soon as possible although the test should not be unnecessarily delayed.
6. At all times respect privacy and confidentiality.
7. The Tester will get written consent from the pupil for the test to take place. Please see the consent form attached.
8. The Tester will give the pupil the opportunity to declare recent use of drugs, either prescribed or other.
9. A multi-panel, 6 Drug Surescreen Rapid Test Strip will be used. Results are immediate. The drug taken will be identified as a negative or positive result.

Multi-Panel Urine Test

- The member of staff will station themselves near the toilet and the pupil will be required to produce a sample of urine into a sterile container.
- The sample will be tested by the Tester, wearing gloves, with the pupil and member of Medical Centre staff in attendance.
- The Head will be informed of the test results.
- Support will be offered by the Medical Centre as needed.

Second Master
Autumn 2019

PUPIL CONSENT AND BRIEFING BY TESTER

You have been brought here today to have a test of your urine for illegal substances. Your urine will be tested for; Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Methamphetamines, Opiates and Cannabis.

I will conduct this procedure and it will be witnessed by a nurse from the Medical Centre. Your parents/guardians will be informed as soon as possible but the test cannot be delayed.

Have you used any illegal substance that might result in a positive test? **YES/NO**

Are you currently taking any medication that might result in a positive test? **YES/NO**

Is there any reason why you are unable to take a test today? **YES/NO**
(Failure to take a test may affect your future at the School.)

Your test today will be a urine test (explanation of the procedure to be given to the pupil)

Do you understand what is going to happen? **YES/NO**

Do you have any questions? **YES/NO**

I consent to having a urine sample checked for illegal substances.

Signed: -**Pupil**

Signed: -**Tester**

Signed: -**Witness**

Date: -

Second Master
Autumn 2019