

Bloxham School



Drugs Policy (ISI part 3: 7, 8, 9 & 11; NMS 3, 6, 11 & 12)

Date Reviewed Date	04.10.19
SLT Approved	Summer 2017
Governor approval	N/A
Review Date	04.10.20
Review by	MGP

Please read in conjunction with:

- Safeguarding Policy
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

Drugs Policy [ISI 7,8, 9 & 11 and NMS 6.1 and 6.2 and 12.1]

The supply or possession of certain drugs - the controlled drugs - is illegal. It is also illegal for the School knowingly to allow its premises to be used for the consumption of such prohibited substances. The purpose of this policy is to seek to prevent students from using illegal drugs at any time.

It recognises that drugs are widely available and widely used by some teenagers and that this is a problem, which must be confronted by society as a whole both at school and at home. This policy is intended to act as a positive, effective deterrent.

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of Bloxham School actively to discourage the use of illegal drugs and “legal highs”, and to treat cases of use by students as serious misconduct. At the very least the school itself should be a drugs free zone.

Priority will be given to a continuing programme of education about drugs at all levels of the School. Students and staff will be regularly updated on developments in drug misuse to ensure that sensible discussions and decisions can be made about the misuse of drugs.

Help will be provided for anyone genuinely seeking it within the School’s programme. Anyone with a drugs problem will receive this help but will go onto a programme of regular testing (see below).

Leadership considered the question of the use of CBD oil on 23.09.19. Leadership took advice from the School doctor which raised some reasons for caution currently being considered by MOSA:

- it is very hard to distinguish cannabis that has had the THC removed (or grown out of the particular strain), from that which is being used for recreational purposes. There have been numerous reports of CBD oil being sold in the UK that has a THC content that is much higher than it should be and is enough to have a psychoactive effect.
- From the medical point of view CBD products are being sold as a panacea for just about every ailment possible which always makes me nervous, and until we have more robust evidence for its efficacy (and potential harms) I’m hesitant to have it in schools.
- Clearly if it is medical prescribed by a specialist then that would be permissible.

Leadership has therefore decided that until there is fuller evidence to consider, and there are greater safeguards about CBD sales, the school will operate a policy of a ban for all these products. The disciplinary responses to use will be the same as those to drugs, as set out in the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy. If a specialist prescribes use of CBD oil then the school needs to be informed, so that suitable arrangements for its distribution to the patient can be made.

Suspicion of misuse

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a student is misusing drugs they must report the situation through the student’s Housemaster or Housemistress to the Headmaster or a Deputy Head, who will decide if further investigation or a drug test is warranted.

Behavioural signs, such as a deterioration in a student’s well-being and/or performance should be noted; other signs or evidence, such as the finding of certain items of equipment, behaviour on a particular occasion, or other information that has been gathered will also be important indicators.

Increased evidence of the use of vape-pens to inhale marijuana (“e-weed”), hash and other illegal substances makes it likely that those caught “vaping” will be required to take a drugs test.

Investigation into possible misuse

Once it has been confirmed that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student may have been misusing illegal drugs, the Headmaster or a Deputy Head will be responsible for any further investigations; they will make every effort to ensure that they are conducted fairly and with as much openness towards the affected student as the circumstances may reasonably allow. The Headmaster or Deputy Head may decide that a student will take a urine or saliva test.

Parents or guardians will be contacted before any test is taken. The school reserves the right to carry out a test without contacting parents/guardians if after making repeated attempts to contact parents/guardians no contact has been made.

Urine sampling and testing, and/or saliva sampling and testing will be carried out in accordance with a strict procedure, details of which are available from the School. This procedure will be updated from time to time as experience and/or scientific advance indicate.

It is a requirement that urine samples be collected in the School medical centre under circumstances of the strictest hygiene and care; while every effort will be made to maintain the dignity of the pupil, an adult will be present to ensure that there is no attempt to falsify or tamper with the sample. Initial testing will be carried out on the spot by the Head, Deputy Head or other senior member of staff using an appropriate test; should this test prove to be positive the student will be asked whether or not they confirm that the test result is correct. If the student does not confirm the test to be accurate then the sample, or second sample, may be tested again by an independent laboratory and the same laboratory will properly maintain the second sample for a period of six months, which on request will be available for retesting by another laboratory if required by parents. The second sample may be a urine, saliva, blood or hair sample. Complete chain of custody records for such samples will be kept by the independent laboratory. It is intended that the procedures be fully in accordance with the standards required to satisfy any legal challenge. If the second sample is tested negative for drug use, then the school will bear the costs. If the second test is positive for drugs use then the school bill-payer will bear the cost of that test.

Authority to perform testing

A testing consent form signed by parents, and also by students who are in the Fifth Form or above will be required. It is a condition of acceptance of a new student into the School that a signed consent form is returned to the School. A student will be asked to sign a consent form on entering the Fifth Form. If a student refuses to take a test, he or she will almost certainly be required to leave the School.

Discipline following misuse

If the only evidence that a student has been taking illegal drugs is a positive test, the student may be allowed to remain at the School and will then be given further guidance and support. (for the full list of probable sanctions see the “Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy”) The student will also be under an obligation to submit to further tests during the rest of the student’s career at the School. Any further positive test, regardless of the time and place of consumption, will lead to the student’s expulsion.

If the only evidence that a student has been taking illegal drugs is the student’s own admission, the student may be allowed to remain at the School and will then be given further guidance and support. (for the full list of probable sanctions see the “Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy”) The student will also be under an

obligation to submit to further tests during the rest of the student's career at the School. Any further positive test, regardless of the time and place of consumption, will lead to the student's expulsion.

Any student who is present whilst others are taking illegal drugs will be regarded as associating with illegal drug taking and will be subject to the same disciplinary tariffs as a student who has taken drugs. These are set out in the Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy.

Any student found supplying or inciting the use of illegal drugs, or being in possession of them with intent to supply, will be expelled.

Any student found in possession of, or using illegal drugs, which he or she has otherwise than for supply, or intending to use them, will be expelled, except in the most extenuating circumstances.

Any student discovered attempting to tamper with or falsify a sample will be expelled.

Testing following a first positive test.

If a student is allowed to remain at the School following a positive test, he or she will be liable to random testing thereafter. The decision to require a test in these circumstances need not be based on suspicion, and parents will not necessarily be contacted when the decision to test is taken. They will be informed of the result of any test.

Confidentiality

The records of testing will not be used for any other purpose and they will be destroyed when the student records of the individual are destroyed in the normal manner.

Drugs Testing Consent Form:

Headmaster's Office: 01295 724341

From the Head: Paul Sanderson

Email: headmaster@bloxhamschool.com

Dear Parent

In the Parents' Handbook you will find our Drugs Policy statement.

Under the Policy it is open to the Headmaster or the Deputy Head to require a pupil to take a urine or saliva test when circumstances warrant this. Consent to testing has therefore become a condition of entry to the School, and I am writing to ask you to give your consent with regard to your son or daughter who is about to join us. I would be grateful if you could sign the attached form, tear it off and return it to the School.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

Paul Sanderson

BLOXHAM SCHOOL
Drug Testing Consent Form

Name of Pupil _____

I have read the School's Drug Policy and I consent to the above named student being required by the Headmaster or the Deputy Head to undergo a urine or saliva test for illegal drugs as laid down in the Policy Statement.

Signed

Parent _____ Date _____

Parent _____ Date _____

Student _____ Date _____

(Students are asked to sign when they join the Fifth Form.)

Please return the form once signed to the Headmaster's Office.