

## DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

Policy applies from EYFS to Sixth Form and to all staff

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|-----------------------|---------------|
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| Author:               | Chris Collins |

| Version  | Date       | Paragraph | Material change      | Approval         |
|----------|------------|-----------|----------------------|------------------|
| 11.22 v1 | 30.11.2022 | N/a       | No material changes. | Mr Luke Goodman  |
| 01.24 v1 | 09.01.2024 | 5         | Section updated.     | Mr Chris Collins |

Clifton High School is committed to child protection and safeguarding children and young people and expects all staff, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

### Related Policies

Behaviour

CCTV

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Personal, Social Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

Pupil Code of Conduct

Staff Disciplinary Procedure

Staff Professional Code of Conduct

### 1 Introduction

Clifton High School condemns the misuse of alcohol and other drugs and the supply of illegal substances. In this policy the term drugs includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, psychoactive substances (formally described as “legal highs”) and volatile substances.

The School broadly follows the guidance provided by the Department of Education: [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools](#) and the Government’s [2017 Drug Strategy](#) in its responses to drug misuse and in the education it provides about drugs.



Drugs education at Clifton High School endeavours to give factual information about drugs and the consequences of their use. Through specific education in PSHE and other areas of the curriculum, pupils are helped to make balanced and informed judgements about drugs and to develop the attitudes and skills they need to avoid their misuse. This includes visiting outside speakers and opportunities for parents and staff to learn more about drug use. The School believes that all pupils, staff and parents have a duty to act when they learn of the misuse of drugs, and the School will follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding policy in relation to the drug misuse if it is deemed appropriate.

## **2. Smoking and Alcohol**

The following rules apply to smoking and alcohol:

- Pupils must not bring alcohol, tobacco or e-cigarettes onto School premises or on educational visits.
- Pupils are forbidden from smoking or drinking alcohol on the School premises or anywhere where they could be clearly identified as being pupils of the School (including on educational visits).
- The whole school site is a NO SMOKING area.
- The supply of alcohol and tobacco by pupils in the School is a serious matter which may lead to suspension or expulsion. See the Behaviour Policy and the Pupil Code of Conduct.

## **3. Other drugs and substances**

The possession and supply of any drugs (other than alcohol and tobacco) by pupils on the School site and its immediate environment is a serious matter, which in most cases will lead to expulsion. See Behaviour Policy and the Pupil Code of Conduct.

## **4. Medical assistance**

If pupils are found to be under the influence of drugs on the School premises or on educational visits, the priority is to ensure their immediate safety by providing first aid and calling for further medical assistance if this is necessary. The School's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy may come into effect at this point.

## **5. Support for drug misuse**

All staff should be mindful of the potential for drug misuse by our pupils and the potential harm it can cause. A member of staff should report any concerns related to drug use directly to the Deputy Head, Pastoral, who will then assess if any school intervention is necessary. A member of staff should never seek to deal with issues alone but always look for advice and support from the Deputy Head, Pastoral.

Notwithstanding sections 3 and 4 above, the School's primary concern is with the welfare of its pupils and the health and safety of the school community. Any pupil (or parent or friend acting



on their behalf) genuinely seeking help on a drug related matter will be supported in a non-disciplinary manner. Pupils will be given help, support and advice, and staff will treat any conversation or information given with privacy. The School may need to share information parents, as well as with other professionals on a need-to-know basis so that they can take appropriate action. See the Confidentiality section in the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

A pupil can approach any member of staff to seek help, and the School Nurses and Counsellor are able to provide specialist support.

#### **6. If drugs are found on the School site or on an educational visit**

If unidentified or illegal substances are found in the School or on an educational visit, they should be removed to prevent harm to pupils and a member of the Senior Leadership Team informed immediately. Holding on to illegal drugs can be seen as possession and passing illegal drugs between colleagues can be construed as supplying so it is important to report the incident and get help as quickly as possible.

Suspected illegal or controlled drugs will be sealed in a plastic bag in the presence of a second witness (usually a member of the Senior Leadership Team) and logged (details of date, time of seizure and witnesses), stored in a secure location and then disposed of legally. If the law has been broken and the matter is referred to the Police, then the evidence will be handed directly to them.

#### **7. Investigating suspected illegal drug possession or misuse in School**

The School will thoroughly investigate suspicions of drug possession and use involving pupils. The Deputy Head, Pastoral will oversee the investigation which is likely to involve the Senior Leadership Team, Head(s) of Year, and other key pastoral staff. Investigations may include interviewing pupils, the scrutiny of CCTV footage, the searching of students' lockers, bags and clothing with their consent and in extraordinary circumstances without their consent as directed by the DfE advice [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) 2022.

There will be a thorough investigation of events and personal circumstances of the pupil(s) involved. The Head of School will be informed of the outcome of investigations. Parents will be informed if their child has been involved in an investigation and will be contacted prior to the School contacting the Police. If a search of the student's belongings and/or outer clothing is requested, then this will be undertaken in line with the advice given to schools by the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) and the Department for Education (DfE), in particular DfE advice [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) 2022.

#### **8. Parents under the influence of Drugs**

School Office 0117 973 0201  
schooloffice@cliftonhigh.co.uk

College Road, Bristol, BS8 3JD  
cliftonhigh.co.uk

Admissions 0117 933 9087  
admissions@cliftonhigh.co.uk



The School will ask parents or other adults to leave the school site if their behaviour gives cause for concern and/or if they are clearly under the influence of drugs. The School's Child Protection and Safeguarding procedures may also come into use in these circumstances.

#### **9. Staff**

In the interests of Child Protection and Safeguarding, alcohol (unless attending an on-site function where alcohol is provided) and drugs should not be consumed by staff on the School site or on educational visits. The Staff Professional Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures make it clear that performance of duties while under the influence of alcohol, or certain prescription medication which may impair judgement or illegal drugs is considered gross misconduct and could result in immediate dismissal.

Criminal offences that involve the possession of illegal drugs by staff will be regarded as unacceptable and subject to disciplinary action, which could lead to dismissal.

#### **10. External support**

There are numerous organisations who can give up-to-date information on drug and alcohol issues - these include:

Talk to Frank - [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

Drink Aware - [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)