

PREFACE

Chiltern Hills Academy is a learning environment at the heart of its community. We encourage every person in our community to:

Create, Aspire and Excel to 'Live life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)

We achieve this through our dedication to the seven Christian values of love, hope, self-discipline, compassion, forgiveness, respect and honesty.

We are a community in which staff, students and parents work collaboratively to develop a learning environment and organisation which is spiritual, safe, innovative, creative and exciting. All members of the Academy are motivated and inspired by the vision to give their best and to play a full part in the life of the school and in their own developing lives.

The Governors at Chiltern Hills Academy are committed to achieving the vision and values. They oversee and monitor this policy to ensure that this is being achieved.

RATIONALE

Chiltern Hills Academy does not condone either the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco or other substances by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of these substances. This policy will apply to the school premises and beyond, whenever students are within the care of school staff and as they travel to and from school. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also every drug has the potential to harm.

For the purpose of this policy the terms 'drugs' refers to a substance, legal or illegal, that people take to change the way they feel, think, or behave. It includes legal substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, legal highs, solvents and prescribed drugs. In addition, this policy includes, illegal drugs such as, cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, cocaine, LSD, GHB, Ketamine and alkyl nitrites (poppers).

POLICY AIMS

Chiltern Hills Academy is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. We aim to educate young people about the consequences of drug misuse and to offer support to young people who need it.

At Chiltern Hills Academy we will:

- Provide relevant and appropriate information on the misuse of drugs to enable young people to make healthy and informed choices.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse.
- To promote parents' awareness of drugs and their understanding of the Academy's policy on drugs.
- To enable students to identify where help and support can be found through signposting to agencies.
- To counter any inaccurate messages and myths which young people may receive about drugs with accurate information.
- To enable staff to deal with drug-related incidents with confidence, competence and consistency.
- To clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the Academy.
- To help students to explore and develop their own attitudes to drug use.

DRUG EDUCATION

Chiltern Hills Academy's drug education programme forms part of our Life Skills programme and is an educational entitlement of all students. Our approach is supported by Switch Bucks, an external agency that provides education, support and guidance for staff and students. We also work with the Risk Avert Programme to inform of the risks associated with substance misuse. In addition, drug education is included in the Science curriculum and opportunities to discuss drugs may also arise in other lessons such as PE. Through our curriculum we aim to encourage students to ask questions and raise concerns they may have or are experiencing. Our programme is pitched at the appropriate level and matched according to our students' age and maturity. Chiltern Hills Academy works in collaboration with other local schools, police and local drug agencies to combat drug misuse.

At Chiltern Hills Academy we will provide opportunities for all our students to discuss any concerns with a member of the safeguarding team. Students will be made clear of the limits of confidentiality. In the event of a student disclosing a concern relating to drugs they will be informed that information will be shared in accordance with our safeguarding procedures. If a student is suspected of having drugs in their possession we reserve the right to search that individual following the DfE publication Screening, Searching and Confiscation 2018 guidance. Our work with Thames Valley Police supports this policy and our approach includes visit involving drugs search dogs following which support is offered to students deemed to be at risk.

DRUG PREVENTION

We will keep informed of current trends in drug use among young people in our local area. Chiltern Hills Academy works closely with community police officers and organisations, such as Switch Bucks and Way-In. The Risk Avert Programme offers a survey that all students in Year 8 complete which informs our Life Skills Programme. Through our safeguarding procedures, students will be made aware of the limits of confidentiality if they disclose information to a member of staff or our counsellor. In line with safeguarding procedures, a student will be told that information must be passed to the safeguarding team if the student or others are in danger. The Academy has a zero tolerance to drugs and other substances and we will comply with criminal law and pass on information to the Police where it is our legal duty to do so.

Disciplinary procedures for students

When dealing with incidents the Academy may need to search for and confiscate items.

If a student is suspected or found to be in possession of drugs or using, illegal drugs (including offering or selling illegal drugs) at school the following procedure will be followed (including visits off site).

- Academic Year Leader is informed
- Information shared immediately with SLT line manager who will share with the DSL
- The information will be sensitively checked
- Search is conducted in accordance with the guidance (at least one member of SLT must conduct the search)
- Parents will be informed
- The police will be informed

- Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with CHA behaviour ladder
- Referral made, as appropriate, to support agency
- Counselling offered, as appropriate

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed when there are changes in the law or at least every two years, to assess implementation and effectiveness.

This policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the Academy.

Appendix

The following external agencies will be shared with the student and their parents and are available on our website:

DrugScope; drug information and resources www.drugscope.org.uk

Way In – local counselling service - 01494 791 177 www.way-in.uk

National Drugs helpline – 0800 776600 <http://drughelpline.org/>

Mentor-adepis: Charity offering support, information and free resources to schools
www.mentor-adepis.org.uk

Switch Bucks

Switch Bucks is an alcohol and drug service for young people in Buckinghamshire.

Our drop-in sessions run from 3pm to 6pm at the following locations:

Mondays and Thursdays: Wycombe Mind Recovery Centre, 16-18 Easton Street, High Wycombe HP11 1NR

Tuesdays and Fridays: Youth Concern, The Uptown Coffee Bar, Whitehill Lane, Aylesbury HP19 8FL
<https://www.cranstoun.org/service/switch-bucks/>

Drinkline: a free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone's drinking 0800 9178282

<https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/alcohol-support-services/>

Bucks Drug and Alcohol Service: 01296 387034

<https://onerecoverybucks.org/>

FRANK: national drugs awareness campaign – raising awareness amongst young people, their parents and carers, an emergency contact, www.talktofrank.com/emergency-help - 0300 123 6600