



BABINGTON

HOUSE SCHOOL

Drugs Policy

Babington House School

Date of Policy	Review Date	Reviewed By	Approved By
June 2026	June 2027	SLT Michelle Da Silva	SLT

Introduction

Babington House School Drugs Policy is born out of our duty to safeguard the pupils within our care. It is also important for the maintenance of good order and discipline within the community, and for the protection of the school's reputation. Our policy also seeks to encourage respect for the rule of law.

All drugs have the potential to harm, but some drugs are more harmful than others. For a small number of people, drugs lead to serious and far-reaching consequences not only for themselves, but their families, their communities and society in general. For young people in particular, drugs can have an impact on their education, their relationships with family and friends and, of course, their futures. Sadly, there is also a clear relationship between drugs and organised crime.

All young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of drugs; by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving drugs; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom drugs are a concern receive appropriate support.

However, schools cannot act alone. They are part of a broader prevention picture which includes the police and a range of partner agencies. Parents/Carers are asked to give their wholehearted support to the implementation of this policy. By working together, we can help young people navigate their way through what is a complex social issue and safeguard everyone within the community.

As a school we are aware that young people face pressure to use or experiment with controlled drugs, and we aim to do all that we can to reduce those pressures.

Statement of Policy

It is the policy of Babington House School to actively discourage and, as far as possible, prevent the handling and use of controlled drugs. The school treats cases of handling and misuse by pupils as serious misconduct.

Prevention through education

Drugs education is an integral part of the PSHE curriculum throughout all stages of a pupil's time at Babington House. These lessons are further supplemented through additional well-being days, visiting speakers and guest presentations.

Aim & Purpose

The aim of this policy, which also applies to EYFS is:

To prevent pupils from using illegal drugs at any time and to promote the school as a “Drugs-free environment”.

To educate and inform pupils about the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substances such as solvents.

To identify any pupils who may be taking drugs or other substances, offer them help and support and make them aware of the different sources of help available.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities of the school.
- Reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school.
- Clarify the school’s approach to drugs for all staff, students, governors, parents, external agencies and the wider community and the associated sanctions that the school may take.
- Give guidance on developing, implementing and monitoring the drug education programme.
- Enable staff to manage drugs on school premises, and any incidents that occur, with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved.
- Ensure that the response to incidents involving drugs complements the overall approach to drug education and the values and ethos of the school.
- Provide a basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the school drug education programme and the management of incidents involving illegal and other unauthorised drugs.

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents, governors and partner agencies working in the school. It includes journeys to and from school either in school uniform, sixth form business attire or other, work experience, sports fixtures, residential or day trips and courses. Students must not bring controlled drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, legal highs or alcohol onto the school site at any time.

This policy also applies to conduct outside of school that may have an adverse effect within the school community or on the reputation of the school. For example, action could be taken where one pupil is known to be involved in supply or possession of drugs outside school jurisdiction.

Legal Framework

- Any drugs found must be removed in the presence of a witness and reported to the headmaster or member of SLT.
- Any suspicion must be investigated.
- Parents have the right to know if their children are in the possession of drugs, but this can be waived if contact is felt to endanger the pupil.
- If pupils approach the staff for drugs counselling, they have the right to this under the Children’s Act. The headmaster will arrange for the appropriate agencies to be contacted.

Guidelines for drugs Education

Prep School

We consider the education of younger children particularly important and as part of their education they will be informed about the abuse of substances such as tobacco, alcohol and medicines, choices they can make about drinking and smoking when they reach the required age, peer pressure and drug and alcohol dependency.

Senior School

Importance is placed on a program of education about drugs through the PSHE program as well as through science and the school's well-being days. Implicit in this is that anyone genuinely seeking help will be provided with it under the terms of the school's program and that anyone with a drug problem will receive this help.

a) Pupils should:

- Have access to drugs information and education at all key stages and feel able to talk in confidence to a member of staff about a drug-related problem.
- They should also understand the limits of confidentiality that operate within the institution and be able to support and know who to turn to if a friend is experiencing a problem.
- Understand that drugs should not be brought to, sold passed on or obtained on school premises, on holidays, field trips and visits organised by the school.
- Understand the difference between voluntarily confiding a drug related problem and being found deliberately breaking school rules on drugs.
- Report immediately to the school office in case of feeling unwell in connection with drug usage.

b) Teachers should:

- Have access to information, training and expertise concerning drugs and drug use. They should be equipped to organise and deliver drugs education with PSHE and other areas of the curriculum.
- If a pupil confesses to a drugs related problem, inform the Headmaster immediately.
- Expect disciplinary action to be taken if they, as employees contravene the code of conduct concerning drugs.
- Know the procedures concerning illness linked to known or suspected drug usage.

Parents should:

- Be aware of what information is given to pupils and have access to it.
- Endeavour to maintain an atmosphere within which a child would feel able to confide a drug-related problem. The parent should be able to contact the school about a home problem.
- Be aware of the school's drugs policy. They should also give their own guidance concerning drugs.
- Expect to be contacted if their child is caught breaking school rules on drugs.
- Understand that punishment is likely to be a school matter.
- Expect further action to take place after consultation with appropriate agencies.

Governors should:

- Have access to drugs information and training.
- Endeavour to encourage a supportive atmosphere within the institution where

young people feel able to confide a drug-related problem.

- Be aware of their legal responsibilities over drugs on the premises. In consultation with the school community, they should contribute to the development of a policy for drug education.

Definition of a Drug

The definition of a drug, as given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, is: *A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.*

The term 'drugs' and 'drug education', unless otherwise stated, is used throughout this document to refer to all drugs:

- all illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- all over the counter and prescription medicines. (Please refer to the School's First Aid Policy for the management of prescription medicines whilst in school and on school trips).
- Novel or new psychoactive substances, commonly known as 'legal highs', including volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), alkyl nitrites (known as poppers). (The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 makes it an offence to supply, offer to supply, or possess such substances.)
- all legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco and vapes.

Smoking and Vaping

Smoking and Vapes 'Vapes' carry significant risk to the whole school community and are a prohibited item and must not be brought onto the school site. Increased concern around their use in conjunction with illegal substances or so called 'legal highs' means we may treat them as drug taking paraphernalia and the risk they pose in relation to fire means that we consider them a risk to the entire school community.

Similarly smoking of tobacco raises a community fire risk and individual health risk. The school is a smoke-free site and pupil smoking of tobacco on site is a serious disciplinary matter.

Suspicion of misuse

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil is misusing drugs, they must report the situation to a member of SLT or the Headmaster who will decide if further investigation or a drugs test is warranted. Suspicion of misuse may arise from: behavioural signs, such as deterioration in a pupil's wellbeing and/or performance, or other signs or evidence such as the finding of certain items of equipment, or other information that has been gathered.

Investigation into possible misuse

Once it has been confirmed that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil may have been misusing controlled drugs, the headmaster or a member of SLT 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 pupil as circumstances may reasonably allow. If required, they may carry out a search of a pupil's locker, their person and any other belongings.

If the headmaster or member of SLT decide that a pupil and their belongings should be searched and / or tested, two members of staff will always be present. The school is not required to

inform parents before a search is conducted. The grounds for the search and all actions taken will form part of a written record.

Schools' general power to discipline, as set out in Section 91 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, enables a member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a pupil's property as a disciplinary penalty, where reasonable to do so.

Where the member of staff finds other substances that are not believed to be controlled drugs, these can be confiscated where a teacher believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances or 'legal highs.' If school staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

Testing Procedure

Where a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of controlled/prohibited drugs, the school reserves the right to inform the police. In such circumstances, the police may attend the school and, where appropriate, require the pupil to undergo drug testing in accordance with their statutory powers.

Pupil consent will always be sought as required by law . However, refusal to provide a sample may be treated as a positive test result. Parental consent for any pupil under the age of 18 will also be sought prior to the administration of a drugs test. If the School is unable to contact parents/carers, a test may still be administered, and parents/carers will be informed as soon as possible.

Refusal by a pupil or parents/carers to agree to the drug testing procedure, either verbally or in writing, may result in the immediate suspension of the pupil pending further investigation, which could include permanent exclusion.

Where priority medical treatment is necessary, this will take precedence over any testing requirements. Staff must seek advice from the School Nurse or a qualified First Aider if a pupil appears unwell or unable to undergo testing.

Outcome of Testing

The school will always assist pupils who have been affected by drugs so they can find support from agencies who are specialists in assisting with addiction and drug problems.

It is recognised that there are significant differences between 'drugs', be they illegal or legal, and other prohibited substances such as tobacco or alcohol, but whilst the sanctions given following their use might be different, they are all considered here.

Any student under the influence of controlled drugs, cigarettes, e-cigarettes, legal highs or alcohol in school, including journeys to and from school in school uniform, sixth form attire or other, work experience, sports trips, residential and day trips and courses may be removed from their activities in order that they can be medically assessed. Their parents/carers may be contacted to collect them, should the school staff feel that this is necessary.

In extreme cases whereby the pupil presents a danger to themselves or others, then the health services and/or the police may be informed.

Sanctions

Both supply and possession of controlled drugs are criminal offences, and examples of gross misconduct for which a pupil would be removed from the school. Furthermore, parents/carers

and pupils are reminded that conduct outside of school that adversely affects the school's reputation is also grounds for permanent exclusion. Pupils at Babington House School are therefore expected to avoid any association with drugs both inside and outside of school, both during term time and during the school holidays.

To be clear, a pupil may expect to be required to leave Babington House School if:

1. They have been involved with selling, distributing or otherwise actively encouraging possession or consumption of drugs, wherever and whenever that conduct takes place.
2. A pupil is found they have supplied, handled, possessed or consumed controlled drugs while under school jurisdiction. ("Supplied" includes supplying for money or free-of-charge, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of someone else, introducing fellow pupils to a drug dealer, or any other instance of procuring controlled drugs for another pupil, or from another pupil).
3. They attend school whilst under the influence of controlled drugs
4. They are involved outside school jurisdiction in the supply, handling, possession, consumption or incitement to the misuse of controlled drugs and in the view of the Headmaster this has, or may have, a negative impact on the school or on the pupil involved, or on other pupils.
5. If they refuse to do a police authorised drug test.

The school may determine whether a pupil's conduct falls in line with the above points on the balance of probabilities having regard to the information known to the school, whether or not such information would be legally admissible as evidence.

The headmaster is entitled to exercise discretion in relation to the school's policies and rules. Each case will be considered in a reasonable and lawful manner, with procedural fairness. In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances, if so, they will be carefully considered.

The parents accept the authority of the headmaster to take all reasonable disciplinary or preventative action necessary to safeguard and promote the welfare of the Pupil and the school community.

Advice and Assistance

Pupils are encouraged to discuss any anxieties about drugs with a member of staff or other responsible adult. Pupils are actively encouraged to talk to the Safeguarding and Well-being lead in the school for further advice and support.

Matters brought to light by a pupil or their parents/carers in circumstances which are genuine, will be 'ring-fenced' from the above disciplinary sanctions. In such cases, advice and support will be given to the pupil and their parents. The pupil may remain in the school if both the pupil and parents agree to a supportive regime in which the pupil promises:

1. Not to breach the School's Drugs Policy, and
2. Agrees to regular testing at the parent's expense, for the remainder of his/her school career.

Such a circumstance would require co-operation from parents/carers and the pupil with the school in every respect. Failure to co-operate with a reasonable request of management, or a failed drug test, would result in the pupil being required to leave the school.

A pupil who is involved with drugs outside of this context will face full disciplinary consequences.

Confidentiality

The records of testing will not be used for any other purpose, and they will be destroyed, unless required by the police, or where appropriate after the conclusion of an appeal. If a pupil is required to leave the school, the pupil and their parent/carer will be notified in writing when a record of testing has been destroyed, unless required by the police.

Police

It is a criminal offence to possess, consume, or supply certain drugs. In such cases parents /carers and pupils can expect that the police will be informed. The school seeks to uphold the rule of law and support the work of police in fighting drugs in the local area. Police are therefore informed not with a vindictive aim towards the pupil(s) involved, but rather to provide police with intelligence that might help protect other pupils and the wider community.

Reminder

Staff are reminded that their own expressed attitude and behaviour with regard to controlled drugs, especially insofar as it is witnessed by or known to pupils, is a matter of substantive interest to the school.

Advice to Parents

Below is general advice to parents/carers to minimise the likelihood of their child(ren) experimenting with drugs.

- Avoid giving your children too much money.
- Firmly discourage your child from smoking or vaping, which is often the gateway to more serious drug abuse.
- Do not allow your child to go to unsupervised parties or stay out overnight unless parents/carers have checked with the people with whom they are staying.
- Arrange a drugs test if parents/carers suspect their child is taking drugs. While many of the manifestations of drugs use are identical to the typical features of adolescence, be rigorous and be certain.

Watch out for signs of drug use:

- loss of appetite;
- being either unusually sleepy or unable to sleep at night;
- bouts of talkative, excitable and overactive behaviour;
- being unusually irritable, aggressive and even violent;
- changing moods, from happy and bright to moody and confused, for no apparent reason;
- telling lies or acting secretively;
- losing interest in schoolwork and truanting; changing friendship patterns;
- losing interest in hobbies and sport;
- money or valuables disappearing from the home;
- coming to the notice of police for unruly, disorderly behaviour or dishonesty;
- unusual spots, sores and marks on body, arms or around the mouth and nose; and
- stains and chemical smells on clothing and about the body.

NATIONAL HELP LINES AND LOCAL SERVICES

Addaction Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.	www.addaction.org.uk
ADFAM ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.	www.adfam.org.uk Tel: 020 7533 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk
Alcohol Concern Works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems.	www.alcoholconcern.org.uk Tel: 020 7264 0510 Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.	www.ash.org.uk Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk
Drug Education Forum This website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners.	www.drugeducationforum.com
DrugScope A centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug- related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service.	www.drugscope.org.uk Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Family Lives A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.	http://familylives.org.uk Tel: 0800 800 2222
FRANK The national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.	www.talktofrank.com Tel: 0800 776600 (24 hour helpline) Email: frank@talktofrank.com
Mentor UK A non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.	www.mentoruk.org.uk Tel: 020 7739 8494 Email: admin@mentoruk.org
National Children's Bureau Promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.	www.ncb.org.uk Tel: 020 7843 6000
Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.	www.re-solv.org Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org

Smokefree NHS Smoking Helpline	http://smokefree.nhs.uk Tel: 0800 169 0169
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Legalisations of reference

[Misuse of Drugs Act 1971](#)

[Psychoactive Substances Act 2016](#)

For guidance on DFE Searching, screening and Confiscation at school July 2022 please click the link below.

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching Screening and Confiscation guidance July 2022.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1091132/Searching_Screening_and_Confiscation_guidance_July_2022.pdf)

[Education and Inspections Act 2006](#)