



TORQUAY BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Drugs and Drugs Education Policy

Reviewed by the Teaching and Learning Committee, July 2023

Torquay Boys' Grammar School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of students and young people in its care.

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1. Introduction

TBGS actively seeks to provide an environment where all members of the community are safe from harm. As such, the school takes a robust approach to any individual, or group, that violates our behaviour, drugs or anti-bullying policies. Our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exist.

This policy has been produced in line with guidance from the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

2. Definitions

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally.

For the purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled), over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances.

Drugs Paraphernalia refer to items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters, pipes and vapes.

3. The school's position in relation to drugs, health & the needs of students

- TBGS has a zero-tolerance attitude towards the possession, use or supply, of illegal and other unauthorised drugs. The school is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of the school community.
- In providing drugs education and responding to incidents involving drugs, our first concern is the safeguarding and pastoral care of students.
- Drugs as defined within this policy are not authorized on school premises, or on school trips and excursions, including residential in the U.K or abroad.
- Legal, medicinal, drugs that are provided, or prescribed, for a student's own use (for genuine health reasons), are only permitted with written authorisation from parents/carers, or guardians, in line with our medicines policy.

4. Responding to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Student reports of parents, staff or other students using drugs
- Hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties)
- Glamorising or encouraging the use of drugs and other substances

All members of staff should be alert to any significant changes of mood, or patterns of behaviour, in students. These may be caused by drug taking (legal or illegal) and could relate to safeguarding issues.

All drug related incidents must be reported to the school's DSL, or a member of SMT.

If a student discloses a drug related incident to a member of staff, they should make it clear they can offer no guarantee of confidentiality because of the potential risk of harm to themselves, or others. The DSL should be notified in accordance with our safeguarding policy and procedures and the student will be provided with sources of educative information, advice and support.

A member of the SLT, usually the DSL, will be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

If a student is suspected of being under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises, or on a school trip, the school must prioritise the safety of the young person and those around them. If considered necessary it should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and/or summoning appropriate support.

If the student is felt to be at risk of harm our Safeguarding Policy will come into effect and Children's Services may be contacted.

Where a young person is in possession of a Class A or a Class B drug i.e. Cannabis, or if we suspect they are supplying or selling any form of drug, will inform the Police in accordance with the following [guidance](#)

5. Individuals thought to be in possession of drugs

Dialogue with the student(s) will be undertaken by the Headteacher, the DSL, or a member of SMT, as soon as possible. At TBGS, our emphasis is on listening to what people have to say and asking open rather than closed, or leading, questions in order to determine the facts.

When speaking with students, in these circumstances, every effort will be made to ensure that a second adult witness is present.

The Headteacher, the DSL, or a member of SLT, will inform, consult and involve others as necessary. Careful attention will be given to respecting the confidentiality of those involved.

Where there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student(s) may have an illegal or unauthorised drug, they will be escorted to a senior member of staff who will make every effort to encourage the individual to hand the item(s) over, voluntarily, in the presence of a second member of staff. Where possible the gender of the member of staff carrying out a search will correspond to the gender of the student. If the individual refuses the Headteacher, or member of staff authorised by them, may exercise their statutory power to

search the student(s) or their possessions, without consent in accordance with the following [guidance](#)

Staff may search school property, for example students' lockers, if they believe drugs to be stored there. Prior consent will always be sought, but individuals will be made aware that if consent is refused the school may wish to proceed with a search.

Parents/Carers will normally be contacted by the school, after any search involving students, regardless of whether the result of the search was positive or negative.

Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated. In taking temporary possession of a suspected substance, a second adult witness will be present, the sample will be sealed in a plastic bag with details of the date, time and witness present and then locked in a secure cupboard. If the substance is suspected to be an illegal drug, the police will be notified immediately, in order that they may collect it for identification and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols.

A detailed record of the incident will be made by the Headteacher or DSL and recorded in line with our safeguarding policy and procedures.

At TBGS, we will always seek to work with parents and carers when information or allegations of drug use are made. There may be occasions when, for safeguarding reasons, this may not be appropriate (please refer to our Child Protection and Safeguarding policies for more information).

6. Discipline

Any response to drug-related incidents need to balance the needs of individual students concerned with the wider school community. In deciding what action to take schools should follow their own disciplinary procedures.

Any incidents or situations involving possession, use, or supply, of drugs, both inside and outside of the school premises, or on school trips and residential, is regarded with the utmost seriousness.

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident, but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a student to remain at TBGS would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the student or others in the school.

Any student excluded from the school will be referred to a Drug & Alcohol counsellor at Checkpoint and the Department of Education guidelines on exclusions will be followed.

The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse:

- could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or
- could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

In line with Behaviour & Discipline policy the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are:

- taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or
- travelling to or from school or
- in some way identifiable as a student at the school.

7. Support for students

At TBGS, the welfare of the student is paramount and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'.

We believe that early intervention, where possible, is significant. Such interventions may include:

- Support and advice in school (Counsellor, School Nurse, Peer Mentors, Tutor, HoH/Deputy HoH)
- Referral to specialist outside agencies for support, e.g. Checkpoint
- Working with the Police and our Youth Intervention Officer

Sources of information and advice on where to access support are displayed on noticeboards around the school and on the school's website. These are also made known as part of the PSHE programme.

8. Drug education

8.1. Aims

- To increase students' **knowledge and understanding and clarify misconceptions** about
 - the short and long-term effects and risks of drugs
 - the rules and laws relating to drugs
 - the impact of drugs on individuals, families and communities
 - local and national use
 - the complex moral, social, emotional and political issues surrounding drugs
 - the risk associated with 'county lines' and gang-related drugs issues
- To develop students' **personal and social skills** to make informed decisions and keep themselves safe and healthy, including:
 - promoting positive attitudes to healthy lifestyles
 - assessing, avoiding and managing risk
 - communicating effectively
 - resisting pressures

- finding information, help and advice
 - devising problem-solving and coping strategies
 - developing and maintaining self-awareness and self-esteem in order to motivate them to value their welfare and conscientious care of themselves
- To enable students to explore their own and other peoples' attitudes towards drugs, drug use and drug users, including challenging stereotypes, and exploring media and social influences.
 - To ensure that students have access to and knowledge of up-to-date information as sources of help. This includes local and national helplines (including FRANK for drugs, NHS Smoking Services for tobacco and Drinkline for alcohol), local youth and community services and drug services. These sources are used in addition to the school's own drug and alcohol education.
 - TBGS provides a planned drug education curriculum through the following:

8.2 National Curriculum Science

Key Stage 3: 11-14 year olds should be taught that “conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease”

Key Stage 4: 14-16 year olds should be taught that “human health is affected by a range of environmental and inherited factors, by the use and misuse of drugs and by medical treatments”.

8.3 PSHE

Key Stages 3 and 4 includes specific drugs education such as ‘facts and laws about drug, alcohol and tobacco use and misuse, and the personal and social consequences of misuse for themselves’.

‘ways of recognising and reducing risk, minimising harm and getting help in emergency and risky situations’ as well as other topics that reflect knowledge, understanding, attitudes and social skills’.

8.4 Philosophy and Applied Ethics

Provide opportunities to understand rules and laws and how they relate to rights and responsibilities, to explore moral, social and cultural issues and to discuss and debate topical issues.

Other curriculum areas such as Physical Education also contribute to aspects of the drug education curriculum.

8.5 Drug Education Week

Provide opportunities for a range of assemblies and extended tutor time activities where year groups can receive targeted education relative to their age and development. During

these weeks we may invite our Youth Intervention Officer into school, accompanied by a Passive Drug Detection Dog.

8.6 Visitors

Occasionally, appropriate and suitably experienced and/or knowledgeable visitors from outside school may be invited to contribute to the delivery of drug education e.g. the Youth Intervention Officer/Checkpoint Drug and Alcohol Advisor.

8.7 Teaching strategies

A variety of teaching strategies are used including teacher exposition, discussion, project learning, research, questionnaires, quizzes, distancing techniques, DVD, on-line materials, external contributors, individual and group work, peer education, case studies, media analysis, structured games, reflection.

8.8 Students with special educational needs (SEN)

Relevant staff will ensure that drug education is accessible to students with special educational needs by considering resources and materials used, timings, teaching strategies etc.

8.9 Resources

A wide variety of materials are available to teachers. Furthermore, parents can contact the school to request school-based resources.

8.10 Monitoring and evaluation

This is conducted through lesson observations, through departmental reviews and extensive student feedback & evaluations. These are all used to inform future planning.

9. Tobacco-smoke & vape free school

TBGS is a non-smoking school for all staff, students and visitors.

10. Sources of advice and local services

Children's Services Tel: 0800 328 5974 www.torbay.gov.uk/fis

Checkpoint Tel: 01803 200100 www.childrenssociety.org.uk

School Nurse Team Tel: 01803 219814

www.torbaycaretrust.nhs.uk/yourlife/childrenandfamilies/school_nursing/Pages/Default.aspx

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. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk Website: www.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 Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day) Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is 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. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is 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. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is 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. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives. Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.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. Tel: 0800 800 2222 Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

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. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams - Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18. Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>

TBGS's commitment to equality and diversity means that this policy has been screened in relation to the use of gender-neutral language, jargon-free plain English, recognition of the needs of people with a disability, promotion of the positive duty in relation to race and disability and avoidance of stereotypes.

This document is available in alternative formats on request.