



Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

BlueWhale Training aims to help all pupils to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management.

In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and pupils need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Policy Aims

- To support the BlueWhale Trainings' endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all pupils, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the learners by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency

Definition of drugs

BlueWhale Training defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents.

Drug Education

Although we do not teach PSHE or any drug education at BlueWhale Training, if a conversation arises regarding drug use, we will engage with the students on the dangers of using illegal substances. All referral partners will be notified of any conversation, issues or declarations we received from pupils relating to this. Pupils will be made aware of this notification.

Managing drug related incidents

Alcohol

Pupils are not allowed to bring in alcohol on the school. If a pupil attends BlueWhale Training and is under the effects of alcohol, they will be asked to leave the session and return the next day.

Tobacco

Although BlueWhale Training is a no smoking site, pupils aged 16 and over are permitted to bring to smoking materials to BlueWhale Training, including matches and lighters. Although we do not approve, students are allowed to smoke outside in the designated smoking area at the Mailbox during their lunch break.

Solvents

Pupils are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on BlueWhale Training premises. If a student arrives at BlueWhale Training under the influence of drugs or smelling strongly of cannabis they will not be allowed onto the premises and asked to return for their next session. Contact with the referral partner regarding the incident and action taken.

Incidents

- A drug related incident may include any of the following:
- A student who is suspected of being under the influence of a drug
- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on BlueWhale premises
- Supply of drugs on premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use.
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use

Guiding principles

- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the referring school.
- Evidence of drug use or possession may result in exclusion.
- We will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

Procedures

Medical emergencies

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the pupil's safety.

Individuals in possession of drugs

If any pupil or adult at premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, we will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation. Both the students learning mentor and school/referral agency will be informed.

Support for pupils

Following actions to preserve immediate safety, the health and emotional needs of pupils will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system to ensure a caring response to pupils in distress.

Interventions will be considered if we feel a pupil is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or that of their parent or carer. Such interventions may include consultation and subsequent referral.

Recording

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely on the pupil's file on the BlueWhale server system.

Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a pupil, though information given in confidence will only be disclosed to anyone else in the interests of Child Protection. If a pupil discloses that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, action will be taken to ensure that the pupil comes to no serious harm if this is considered a significant risk. Staff have a commitment to inform the pupil in advance of any disclosure of information to others and if possible enable the pupil to be involved in the process. Staff are committed to protect a young person's anonymity where their disclosure may implicate others. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Hayes', written in a cursive style.

Ben Hayes - Company Director - August '22

Review Date: August '23