



# The Chalfonts Community College

## Substance Abuse Policy

<b>Approved by:</b>	SLA Committee	<b>Date:</b> 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
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## **1. SUBSTANCES COVERED BY THIS POLICY**

This policy incorporates alcohol, cigarettes, tobacco, E-Cigarettes, volatile substances, certain permanent ink markers, all forms of medicines, pain killers whether prescribed or bought over the counter, and all other legal and illegal drugs. It also applies to glue, aerosol sprays, and other substances where they are used as intoxicants. Involvement in the abuse of any such substances constitutes "involvement in drug related activity".

By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc

Any prescribed medicines to be taken in school need to be left in the Medical room except for inhalers and epi-pens which should be carried by the student; spares will be kept in the Medical room for emergency use only.

## **2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 2.1 The Chalfonts Community College is committed to:
- 2.2 Minimising the number of students who experiment with or abuse substances.
- 2.3 Minimising harm amongst those who, despite our best efforts, decide to experiment or abuse. In particular we are seeking the following outcomes:

That all students will:

- 2.4 Have a greater understanding of the health risks associated with specific substances
- 2.5 Have a greater understanding of the legal risks associated with specific substances
- 2.6 Have a greater understanding of the disciplinary implications of possession or abuse on the school site
- 2.7 Have a greater understanding of the social implications of widespread substance abuse
- 2.8 Be better placed to resist peer pressure relating to abuse and experimentation

To ensure that:

- 2.9 Those who do choose to experiment or abuse are aware of 'harm minimisation' strategies
- 2.10 All students and staff are aware of school based guidance facilities and the role of outside agencies
- 2.11 All students and staff can function in a 'substance abuse free environment'

### **3. DRUG EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM**

- 3.1 The main vehicle for transmitting relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes will be the PSHCE (Personal, Social, and Health & Citizenship Education) programme.
- 3.2 PSHCE modules on substance abuse will be delivered from Year 7 onwards to sponsor a 'spiral' development of knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- 3.3 The programme will be co-ordinated by the teacher in charge of PSHCE. Outside agencies may be required to support with the delivery of these programmes.
- 3.4 Form Tutors delivering the programme will be provided with INSET to ensure that their knowledge is current.
- 3.4 As part of the programme students will be made aware of the school guidance and disciplinary systems.
- 3.5 The programme will deal with alcohol, tobacco, E-Cigarettes, solvents and illegal drugs.

### **4. GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT**

- 4.1 The system at present has the form tutor as the first source of help and support for students.  
More serious issues are likely to be passed on to the Year Leader who may involve the Vice Principal and/or Medical Administrator who will support with counselling, provide leaflets and advice for both students and parents. The School Counsellors will also provide support, counselling and advice if needed.

#### **Definition of School Jurisdiction:**

- 4.2 This policy applies on school premises and/or when it involves any member of the school community during school hours, whilst students are on visits and trips, at school events and other occasions related to the school and on any occasions when the students are the responsibility of the staff. The effects of previous use are unacceptable in school time and as such student behaviour should not be under the influence of substances which contravene this policy.
- 4.3 This policy applies when students are travelling to and from school in uniform; they are considered to be representing the school and therefore the school rules apply. This includes 6<sup>th</sup> form students, who remain subject to school jurisdiction even if off site, when not being taught.

## 5. SUBSTANCE MISUSE

- 5.1 Students are absolutely forbidden to engage in any drug related activity whilst under the jurisdiction of the school. They are forbidden to share, or attempt to share, ingest or otherwise use any substance which, when used by the student with the intention to bring about a state of intoxication, causes the behaviour of the student to be a threat to the health and safety of the student concerned or any other member of the school; or otherwise disrupt the orderly operation of any part of the educational process for which the school is responsible.
- 5.2 Students must not engage in any drug related activity especially whilst under the jurisdiction of the school. This will include involvement in the purchase, possession, supply, intent to supply, being concerned in supply or consumption of drugs or abuse or hiding drugs in or around the school premises for later collection (by themselves or by third parties).
- 5.3 A student who is found under the school jurisdiction in possession of a drug, or any illegal substance, for abusive purposes is in breach of the school's 'Behaviour for Learning' policy; even if the student was not planning to consume the drug while under school jurisdiction.

## 6. ILLEGAL DRUGS

A student in possession, using, and/or under the influence of illegal drugs or caught with drug paraphernalia such as oversize cigarette papers, lighters, matches etc will be dealt with as follows:

- 6.1 The parents and School Police Liaison Officer will be informed and the student will be suspended. The school will convene a meeting with both parents and student as soon as possible. The outcome of this meeting will depend on the attitude of the parents and student. A discussion around a possible referral to the school counselling team or an external professional body (such as SWITCH Bucks) will be held before the student is permitted to return to school.
- 6.2 Permanent exclusion may apply if no Drugs Agreement is agreed or if the Drugs Agreement is subsequently broken. (Appendix 1)
- 6.3 A student shown to be involved in offering an illegal drug to others while under the care of the school may be permanently excluded.**
- 6.4 Involvement in the supply of drugs can take many forms. Any of the following, for example, would be seen as involvement in the supply of drugs and therefore a most serious offence:
  - 6.41 Sharing a drug with others
  - 6.42 Helping or facilitating another student to gain access to drugs or come into contact with someone willing to deal drugs

- 6.43 Making arrangements for another student to buy drugs, even if the transaction itself were to take place outside the school and outside school hours
- 6.44 Making drugs or any illegal substance accessible to other students in any way

**Please note the above list is not exhaustive. The individual case of involvement in the supply of drugs will be assessed independently.**

- 6.5 Intent to supply or attempt to supply is a serious offence, even if no supply actually takes place. A student does not have to make a monetary or any other gain from passing on a drug to be guilty of involvement in supply. A student does not have to be introducing or encouraging others who have no previous drug involvement to be guilty of supply. A student who supplies a drug to another, commits a serious offence even if they are passing over a substance which is not an illegal drug and is not harmful. For a student to lead another to unwittingly consume a drug of abuse is a serious offence.
- 6.6 Students who place themselves in such a way as to give support and encouragement to drug related activity (e.g. by joining students who truant from class to take a drug of abuse) should expect to face serious sanction for offering that support or encouragement, even if they bought no drug and consumed no drug themselves.
- 6.7 Abuse of drugs which can be bought commercially or obtained under prescription is strictly forbidden and a serious offence, again meriting exclusion.

## **7. SEARCHING IN THE CONTEXT OF DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS**

- 7.1 Staff may request a student to empty their pockets and bag if the student has given reasonable cause for legitimate suspicion that they may be in possession of a banned substance. Staff must always have another adult present as a witness, along with the student. When a search is required there will be two members of staff present. This should be done by the Behaviour & Welfare Manager in conjunction with a Head of Year and/or member of the Senior Leadership Team. On an off-site activity, the Group Leader is authorised to search students at the location.  
Where possible, parents and carers are likely to be informed when this happens. Should the student decline, the police may be contacted; with the student observed in the meantime to ensure they do not dispose of any substance. Lockers may also be searched with or without student permission.

## **8. DISPOSAL**

- 8.1 In the event of a drug related incident the school will contact the Police for advice immediately. The school will act upon their guidance. The Police will be asked to oversee the disposal of any suspected illegal substances. Any suspected substance found in school will be confiscated and placed in a locked facility until the police arrive to collect it. There will always be a second person present, as a witness, when the sample is secured in a bag and placed in a locked facility; this would usually involve the Behaviour & Welfare Manager and member of the Senior Leadership Team (Vice Principal in the first instance)
- 8.2 Drugs paraphernalia found on the school premises will be handed over to the Police.

## **9. SMOKING**

The Chalfonts Community College is a no smoking site and has zero tolerance attitude to smoking. Any student found smoking or in the company of smokers will be internally excluded for one day in accordance to our 'Behaviour for Learning' Policy. A possible conversation may be required with the School's Medical Administrator for some advice and guidance around the impact of smoking on a student's health. Repeated offences will be deemed as persistent and defiant behaviour and may lead to lengthier internal exclusions; possible external suspensions, and in extreme cases, could warrant permanent exclusion.

## **10. ALCOHOL AND SOLVENTS**

### 10.1 In possession:

- First offence: Internal exclusion and a telephone call home
- Second offence: Suspension and written warning. During the reintegration meeting a contract is signed (appendix 2) and if this is subsequently broken it is likely to lead to permanent exclusion

### 10.2 Use on site or under the influence:

- First offence: Suspension and written warning
- On return to school a contract is signed (as 'in possession')
- If the contract is broken it is likely to lead to permanent exclusion

## 11. USEFUL CONTACTS

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk)

Website: [www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Change uk** 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 3907 8480 Email: [contact@alcoholchange.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholchange.org.uk)

Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://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 7404 0242 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk)

Website: [Action on Smoking and Health \(ASH\)](http://Action on Smoking and Health (ASH))

### **Childline**

0800 11 11 11

Free 24 hour helpline for children or young people in trouble or danger

**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 714 650 (general queries only) Email: [info@coramclc.org.uk](mailto:info@coramclc.org.uk)

Website: [www.childrenslegalcentre.com](http://www.childrenslegalcentre.com)

**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 7766 9900 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

### **Drug Abuse in family**

[www.YoungCarers.net/Drug Abuse](http://www.YoungCarers.net/Drug%20Abuse)

Under 18 and in need of support caring for someone abusing drugs or alcohol

### **Drug Helpline**

[www.drugline.org](http://www.drugline.org)

Confidential helpline for users, friends and relatives

**Drugwise** 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](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugwise.org.uk](http://www.drugwise.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: 0300 123 6600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Families Anonymous**

0845 1200 660

[www.famanon.org.uk](http://www.famanon.org.uk)

This is a support group for parents of drug users.

**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: 0808 800 2222 Website: [www.familylives.org.uk](http://www.familylives.org.uk)

**Parents Against Drug Abuse (PADA)**

08457 023 867

[admin@pada.org.uk](mailto:admin@pada.org.uk)

Supports parents of drug users

**Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)**

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and youngpeople. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762. Email: [info@re-solv.org](mailto:info@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Smokefree** - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123

1044; Website: <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: [www.childrenssociety.org.uk](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk)

**SWITCH Bucks** - Switch is an alcohol and drug service working with young people across Buckinghamshire. Switch offers support and information and helps young people to develop life skills to make healthy choices around their alcohol and drug use, choices which are important to them.

Switch also provides support and information for the families and carers of young people who are struggling with substance misuse.

**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>

**Young Minds**

0800 018 2138

Free confidential helpline providing information and advice for any adult with concerns about mental health of a young person

**Appendix 1 : AGREEMENT FOLLOWING A SUSPENSION FOR A DRUG RELATED INCIDENT**

**Name:**

**Dates of Suspension:**

**Reason for Suspension:**

On my return to The Chalfonts Community College I agree the following:

1. To attend a session with the school’s Medical Administrator (or be referred to SWITCH Bucks) to gain a better understanding of the impact of drug abuse.
2. Not to engage in any drug related activity whilst under the jurisdiction of The Chalfonts Community College.
3. This will include involvement in the purchase, possession, supply, intent to supply, being concerned in supply or consumption of drugs or abuse.
4. Not to use, and/or be under the influence of illegal drugs whilst under the jurisdiction of The Chalfonts Community College
5. Not to carry any drug paraphernalia such as oversize cigarette papers.
6. To read the Substance Abuse Policy for The Chalfonts Community College.
- 7. I understand that if there is any further involvement with drugs then I may be permanently excluded from The Chalfonts Community College.**

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Date:** .....

Date	Issue	Status	Comments

**Appendix 2 : AGREEMENT FOLLOWING A SUSPENSION FOR AN ALCOHOL AND SOLVENTS RELATED INCIDENT**

**Name:**

**Dates of Suspension:**

**Reason for Suspension:**

On my return to The Chalfonts Community College I agree the following:

1. To attend a session with the Medical Administrator at The Chalfonts Community College.
2. Not to engage in any alcohol or solvent related activity whilst under the jurisdiction of The Chalfonts Community College.
3. This will include involvement in the purchase, possession, supply, intent to supply, being concerned in supply or consumption of alcohol or solvents
4. Not to use, and/or be under the influence of alcohol or solvents whilst under the jurisdiction of The Chalfonts Community College
5. Not to carry any alcohol or solvents.
6. To read the Substance Abuse Policy for The Chalfonts Community College.
- 7. I understand that if there is any further involvement with alcohol or solvent related activity then I may be permanently excluded from The Chalfonts Community College.**

**Signed:** .....

**Name:** .....

**Date:** .....

Date	Issue	Status	Comments

Date	Issue	Status	Comments
May 22	1	New	