



Bladins
International School of Malmö



Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy

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Policy Statement and Purpose

This policy provides information on BISM guiding principles regarding drugs, alcohol and smoking. BISM does not tolerate the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school, or the illegal supply of these substances. BISM is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing. BISM acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the school's general ethos. It will seek to provide the education and support students need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

Definitions of Key Terms

- Smoking - tobacco products or e-cigarettes
- Drugs - Substances people take to change the way they feel, think or behave- includes illegal substances, prescription medicines used improperly, 'legal highs', inhaled solvents, substances which are misused to enhance performance.

The following policies should be read in conjunction with this:

- Code of Conduct - This policy applies to all BISM staff, volunteers, students and parents. This policy is available on our website and from the school office on request. We also refer to aspects of the policy in newsletters to parents. This policy is provided to all staff (including temporary staff and volunteers) at induction. Failure to comply with requirements set out in this policy will lead to intervention from the Senior Leadership Team.

Aims

BISM believes in and supports the following education aims in respect of drugs and substance use and misuse:

- To enable students to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
- To provide accurate information about substances at an age appropriate level.

- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable students to identify appropriate sources of personal support. These aims are fulfilled through a programme of education arranged through the established curriculum, the PSHE syllabus and through invited external speakers. This programme covers all levels of the school. Students can discuss any individual concerns with their class teacher or form tutor or another member of the SWT. They can also discuss matters with the School Counsellor without fearing sanctions or adverse reports. We also encourage parents and guardians to discuss matters with relevant staff and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the wellbeing of all students.

The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as the Police, Social Services and Health promotion Services to deliver its commitment to drug education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Tobacco

BISM operates a non-smoking campus. This includes e-cigarettes. Smoking is therefore forbidden in any area of the school property. Smoking is also forbidden on School trips, both day and residential. Staff should also refrain from smoking in the presence of students at any time. All smoking incidents are reported to the Principal and parents will normally be informed at the earliest opportunity. Please see the BISM Code of Conduct for sanctions. If smoking within school becomes an ongoing problem there would be consultation with the student and their parents in order to find a way, in the first instance, to offer support e.g. signposting to Stop Smoking services. The school will always contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling tobacco or tobacco products to under-age students (under 18) and the Policy may also be informed.

Alcohol

Alcoholic drinks may not be brought to or consumed on the School premises by students. The same expectations apply to any trips- day or residential. BISM is clearly bound by the law of the land and those laws guide our policy. All alcohol offences will be reported to the Head of School

and to parents. Evidence of alcohol consumption will be enough to incur a disciplinary consequence. In response to a first offence a student may be referred for a session of counselling (at the parents' / guardians' expense) or signposted to appropriate support agencies. Persuading other students to partake of alcohol is regarded in a very serious light. For alcohol offences the school reserves the right to contact parents / guardians and ask them to collect their child immediately. It may be more appropriate to discuss consequences once the individual is sober. In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to under-age students (under 18) the School will contact the manager of the establishment and the Police will be informed.

Drugs

Taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden. The Head of School reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changes circumstances as they occur, based on the definitions section of this policy. We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at BISM, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish as part of our commitment to uphold British values. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community and gives all of our students the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. Any member of staff or parent concerned that a student might be involved in drug abuse should inform the Head of School immediately. We will always investigate rumours about involvement in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a student and searching his / her personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the School to discuss the matter. The Police will be informed.

Our sanctions policy

- Anyone caught possessing, consuming or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be reported to the Police, as well as consequences and support at BISM.
- In some cases there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered. The Head of School reserves the right to consult the Police about possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it carries the possibility of being a criminal offence.
- Agrees to undergo drug tests at various times during his/her remaining School career.

● Agrees to take part in drugs counselling if the school requires. The same undertakings will also be required of any student who may be allowed back after an offence due to mitigating circumstances (see above). The scope of the School's discipline reaches to the point where there is a transfer of responsibility from School to parent. However, where it becomes known that drug abuse is taking place outside BISM, then the School is in possession of information which could be deemed to be criminal and thus:

- Inform parents of the nature of the information
- Ask that there should be drugs counselling
- Require that the student be drugs tested in the future
- Talk to the local Police about the matter.

Solvent abuse is also a serious offence. The School may react to solvent abuse in a similar way to other forms of drug abuse.