

# STUDENT SUBSTANCE MISUSE GUIDANCE

At Culcheth High School we are committed to ensuring that the school is healthy; free from the misuse of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other substances which can have a harmful effect on you and the local community. We want you to know that your mental and physical health is as important to us as your grades!

This guidance is to inform you of the rules and protocols relating to the possession or use of alcohol, drugs and illegal substances on the school grounds (and including all school functions). The aims of this guidance are to inform you;

- what the CHS rules are
- what actions will be taken if you break them
- how you can avoid becoming involved with illegal substances and where you can get support if you have
- how you can report suspected incidents of substance misuse

## School Rules:

We operate a zero tolerance regarding illegal drugs and we are committed to taking positive action in relation to a drug related incident.

A drug incident refers to the following circumstances;

- Suspicion - if a teacher or other member of school staff has reasonable grounds for suspecting a student has involvement with alcohol or drug use.
- Observation - if a teacher or other member of staff observes intoxication, or witnesses the use of, or the supply of alcohol or drugs.
- Discovery - if unauthorised drugs or drug paraphernalia are found in a student's possession or on school grounds.

Mr Hunt, and staff authorised by him, have a statutory power to search you or your possessions, without consent, when they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that you may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include:

- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- vaping paraphernalia (e.g. e-cigarettes)
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- any item that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be, used to commit an offence
- any item banned by the school rules which has been identified as an item which may be searched for.

### Actions Taken by CHS:

These items can, and will, be taken from you and safely disposed of. Your parents will be informed, along with the Police if deemed necessary. The incident will be kept on your file and you could be temporarily or permanently excluded from school. Juvenile Cautions imposed by the Police stay on Police File FOR LIFE and may affect your future career prospects. Certain criminal convictions also affect your travel plans to certain countries including the USA, Australia and New Zealand.

### Support offered by CHS:

Following any alcohol or drug incident your parents/carers will be asked to come into school to discuss an action plan. You will receive input from Warrington's 'Young Person's Substance Misuse Team' to be screened and given information, advice and support from the CHS School Health Team.

If the incident was part of a pattern of misbehaviour the school can decide to implement an Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP) or a Pastoral Support Plan (PSP).

If you feel that you would rather talk to someone other than a member of staff at CHS then there is alternative help available;

- Warrington Drug & Alcohol Action Team  
New Town House, Warrington  
01925 443442
- Young person's drug and alcohol team  
Orford Youth Base, Capesthorpe Road, Orford, Warrington, WA2 01925 851029
- Footsteps  
Helping you to cope with someone else's drug or alcohol misuse  
Tel: 01925 244524
- FRANK (offers information on individual NPS)  
National Drugs Helpline  
0300 123 6600  
<http://www.talktofrank.com/worried-about-a-child>
- Warrington School Health Service  
Warrington Youth Service  
Orford Youth Base, Capesthorpe Road, Warrington, WA2 0J  
01925 851029

This guidance follows the guidance given in the document 'Drug Advice for Schools' produced by Department of Education (DfE) and the Association for Chief Police Officers (ACPO), 2010 (reviewed in 2013).