



## **DRUGS POLICY**

The College recognises the role that schools have to play in helping to prevent the misuse of drugs, psychoactive and other substances. We have a responsibility to provide an effective programme of drug education and to take steps to promote the health, safety and well-being of our pupils.

The objectives of the drug education provided by the College are:

1. To develop pupils' understanding of the difference between controlled and illegal drugs.
2. To educate pupils on the effects of drugs, psychoactive and other substances on the mind and body.
3. To provide opportunities for pupils to develop the skills and strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs, psychoactive and other substances. This will include the dangers of using "legal highs".
4. To explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs including the system of classification.
5. To provide pupils and parents with information about the sources of help and support available, especially in the local area.
6. To inform pupils about the consequences of involvement with drugs, psychoactive and other substances (and associated items).

### **Use of illegal drugs, psychoactive and other substances**

The College's general response is outlined below:

- A.** A pupil is likely to be permanently excluded from the College if the College has reasonable grounds to believe that they have been:
- Selling illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items at the College;
  - Using or encouraging others to use illegal drugs or psychoactive substances at the College;
  - In possession of illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items whilst at the College;
  - Persisting in the use of illegal drugs or psychoactive substances (despite prior warning from the College); or

- Breaching the terms of a behaviour contract made between the College and the pupil in relation to illegal drugs or psychoactive substances.

**B.** A pupil who tests positive for drugs or psychoactive substances but is not at the time in possession or selling, is likely to be given a disciplinary sanction short of permanent exclusion, except where he has at the same time or previously committed other acts of serious misconduct.

However, the College will consider any incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents.

The College will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. In any decisions it makes, it will seek to comply with the law and to balance the interests of the pupil with the interests of other members of the College. The College wishes to support parents as well as it can and will inform them, in general terms, about its drug education policies and will inform individual parents if their son is involved in any incident involving illegal or psychoactive substances.

### Definition

For the purposes of this document:

<b>“associated items”</b>	means items used in connection with the manufacture, use, storage, sale or concealment of illegal drugs or psychoactive substances
<b>“at the College”</b>	means each of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) on College premises;</li> <li>(b) anywhere where a pupil is engaged in an activity organised by College staff or anyone acting on behalf of the College (including when on trips and expeditions); and</li> <li>(c) whenever and wherever the pupil is wearing College uniform or other clothing which identifies him as a College pupil, including when travelling to and from the College</li> </ul>
<b>“illegal drug”</b>	means a drug or substance that is controlled under the United Kingdom’s misuse of drugs legislation (including the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001), excluding medicine that was prescribed for use by the relevant pupil by a qualified medical practitioner

<p><b>“psychoactive substance”</b></p>	<p>means a substance that affects a person’s mental functioning or emotional state by stimulating or depressing their central nervous system, as described in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016</p>
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### Guidance to staff

If you believe, or it is reported to you, that a boy may have illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items on his person or in his possession at the College, you should report the matter to the Head of School immediately. Action by the Head of School will then be taken as follows:

1. The boy will be seen by the Head of School and another member of staff together and told that the accusation has been made
2. He will be asked to empty his pockets, bags etc in front of the Head of School and a witness. This may also extend to his locker.
3. If a boy refuses, he will be detained and parents will be contacted. The police may be contacted.
4. Parents will be informed of the accusation and the results of any subsequent search.
5. If any illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items are found, the boy will be questioned further by the Head of School, with the parents in attendance (if available) and a witness. If the boy's parents cannot be immediately contacted, the interview will take place and they will be informed as soon as possible. The boy will be asked to write his account of the situation.
6. A decision as to whether the police should be called in will be made in conjunction with the Master (or in his absence the Deputy Master Pastoral) and parents. The decision will be affected by:
  - the items found
  - whether other boys are involved
  - other wider circumstances

At all points the College reserves the right to inform the police if it deems it to be necessary. Although each incident will be treated separately, the College is likely to want to take action (in addition to any legal action). The College will consider suspension or exclusion.

Any member of staff who believes that a boy is or boys are taking or dealing in illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items whilst at the College, should report the matter immediately to the Head of the School, who will investigate the allegation following the above guidelines. Boys should be encouraged to

report immediately to a member of staff any matter(s) concerning illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items.

### **Drug Testing Policy**

The aims of the College's Drug Testing Policy are to support those pupils thought most to be at risk of drug-taking, to help by dispelling ill-founded suspicion of drug-taking and to act as a general deterrent.

#### **When can a test be required?**

The College may require a test when it has reasonable cause to believe that a pupil may have been using illegal drugs or psychoactive substances. Concern may arise from a variety of factors including changes in behaviour, mood, academic work and lifestyle.

#### **How is the decision to require a test taken?**

By consultation between the pupil's Head of School, Boarding Housemaster, if he is a boarder, and the Deputy Master Pastoral.

#### **What does the Deputy Master Pastoral do before the test is conducted?**

The Deputy Master Pastoral notifies the pupil's parents (or guardians, in the case of boarders) by telephone that a test is to be conducted and why.

The Deputy Master Pastoral makes an appointment with the Medical Centre for a test to be conducted and makes arrangements for the test to be properly supervised. Usually the Deputy Master Pastoral will be the test supervisor but there will be occasions when it will be necessary to appoint another member of staff.

The Deputy Master Pastoral only informs the pupil that a test is required immediately before the test appointment.

#### **How is the test conducted?**

The test takes the form of a specimen of urine. The specimen is obtained using strict guidelines. It is then sent off to a laboratory for analysis.

#### **How are the results communicated?**

In the case of a negative result the College Medical Centre will normally receive email notification within 48 hours. If a result needs confirming this may take up to 5 days. Immediately a result has been received the Deputy Master Pastoral will be informed.

Once the Deputy Master Pastoral has received written information of a test result, she will notify the Master, the Head of School and the pupil's parents by telephone as soon as possible. (This will enable maximum time

for consultation and also for the parents to decide whether they would like to have an independent analysis done.) The pupil will also be told the test result as soon as possible. Finally the Deputy Master Pastoral will send the written confirmation of the test result to the pupil's parents.

**Who pays for tests?**

In general, for pupils who have never tested positive, the cost of a test will be borne by the College. However, if a pupil is allowed to remain at the College after a positive test, the cost of the test and all subsequent re-tests will be charged to his parents.

**What happens ultimately to the records of tests?**

When it becomes clear that both the College and the parents are satisfied with the outcome of a test for drugs or psychoactive substances, the record card will be destroyed. Under no circumstances will there be any reference to tests for drugs on a pupil's permanent medical record.