



Drug Offences Policy

THIS POLICY APPLIES TO MILLFIELD.

Definitions

This policy refers to illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD and mephedrone, the abuse of solvents, other substances taken specifically to change mood and/or behaviour, (including so called 'legal highs', the use of nitrous oxide, and new psychoactive substances) and the inappropriate use of prescribed drugs. There are separate policies on alcohol and nicotine.

Students are not permitted to be involved with these drugs in any way whenever Millfield is *in loco parentis*. Therefore this policy may also apply to involvement with illegal drugs outside school where the reputation of the school is affected, where students have supplied drugs or where the Headmaster or Deputy Head (Pastoral) is satisfied that drug abuse away from school is having an effect on the student or others in school.

This policy does not apply to prescribed medicines that are used in accordance with medical guidance. The controls around prescribed medications are detailed in the Care of the Ill Boarder guidance. The Term and Conditions of entry state that a student may be given the opportunity to provide a biological sample under medical supervision if involvement with drugs is suspected.

The school co-operates with other agencies such as police, social services, health and drug agencies.

Aims

In formulating our policy on drug abuse we have the following aims:

- to safeguard physical and mental health of all students in line with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.
- to ensure that young people are in a fit and proper state for education at Millfield
- to promote personal integrity, an ethical community and respect for the law
- to ensure compliance with criminal law

Drug Education

Millfield provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSHEE. Details can be found in the PSHEE Scheme of Work.

We encourage students to discuss any anxieties about drugs with their Housemaster/mistress initially. Parents are also welcome to discuss any concerns that they have with Housemasters/mistresses, Heads of Year or any senior member of staff. If students wish to have a confidential discussion about matters relating to drugs, they should see the School Doctor, the Counsellor or the Chaplain. Details of a national drugs helpline such as [FRANK](#) are published on house noticeboards.

House councils, Year Councils and School Council may offer feedback with regards the Drug Offences Policy; this feedback will be taken into account when reviewing the policy in future.

The Millfield campus is a training venue for police sniffer dogs and the School reserves the right to act on intelligence.

Housemasters/mistresses are encouraged to use professional development opportunities to expand their knowledge of this area, and periodically training is held at Millfield (e.g.: delivered by Dave Parvin of Drug Sense).

Millfield School does not endorse the use of sports supplements, and will only authorise the use of specific sports supplements if there is an identified need for the student in question. Millfield School will provide ongoing nutritional guidance and support where needed from the Millfield Institute of Sport and Wellbeing (MISW).

Involvement with Drugs

Involvement with drugs could include possession of drugs, use, supplying, dealing, possession of the paraphernalia of drug use or overt support for the drug culture. Millfield will always take action if there is reasonable suspicion that students are involved with drugs. Reasonable suspicion would include any indication of drug abuse as well as, association with students who are known to have used drugs, rumour or complaint from a third party.

If a student is suspected of involvement with drugs, staff will give consideration to the Drug Investigation Flowchart, for the flowchart please see, [here.](#) Typically the student's Housemaster/mistress or Head of Year will interview them initially. A search of the student's room and personal property may be undertaken if we consider that such a search is for the purpose of 'safeguarding or promoting a child's welfare' under section 3 (5) of the Children Act 1989. Any search will be conducted in line with our Search Policy.

If a student is found using drugs or in possession of drugs, s/he is reported to the Deputy Head (Pastoral) immediately and typically the student will be suspended from school pending the Headmaster's decision. In these circumstances, no drug test is necessary. Staff should ensure that storage of any drugs found follows the guidance below. Headmaster and Deputy Head (Pastoral) will consider the involvement of the Police depending on the scale and type of any drugs found, and any confirmed sale of drugs at Millfield.

If a student is rumoured to be using drugs, staff should inform the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Year. The most likely course of action would be for the Housemaster/mistress to initially have a non-disciplinary conversation with the student about the rumours and to speak to parents afterwards. Following these discussions the Housemaster/mistress should report back to Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Year to consider what action, if any, should be taken.

A Housemaster/mistress can decide to conduct a room search without permission from senior staff. This should only be done if the Housemaster/mistress believes there is reasonable suspicion and should follow the guidance issued to Housemasters/mistresses on how to conduct a room search.

If there are grounds for suspicion the student will be given the opportunity to undergo a test, or tests (in line with the Millfield Terms and Conditions). Failure to offer a sample may result in further disciplinary action. A clear procedure for the administration of these tests has been agreed, details of which are available to any parent on request. The student's parent or guardian will be informed.

If students are found in possession of drugs, or admit to having taken such drugs they will normally be required to leave Millfield. If a student has supplied drugs i.e. shared or sold drugs (as defined in the first paragraph) they can expect to be expelled. The Head may decide to involve the Police who, if necessary, will be invited to interview the student at School in the presence of his/her parent or Housemaster/mistress or an adult nominated by the child.

Suspicion of drug use



Housemaster/ mistress or responsible adult to contact the Headmaster, Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Year.

Assess medical status. Take to Millfield Medical Centre or nearest Accident and Emergency Centre (or other appropriate medical centre) if required. Contact parents/ guardians at earliest convenience if requiring



Deputy Head (Pastoral) or other designated member of the Safeguarding team, and Head of Year/ Head of Section to administer DrugWipe Test. Follow specific protocol and get consent from child.

In the event that 2 adults named here are unavailable, 2 other appropriately qualified Millfield staff members should administer the test.

Positive result

Ensure that child is safe. Seek medical judgement on whether child is capable of being interviewed to provide details pertaining to events surrounding drug use.

Ensure any other students implicated in statement are safe and contact their responsible adults.

Housemaster/ mistress (other appropriate adult) to offer emotional and practical support to child.

Inform the Headmaster.



Negative result

No disciplinary action required but discretely monitor behaviour and health.

Housemaster/ mistress to tell student and parents of test results and inform the Head of Year.



Meeting between Housemaster/ mistress, Head of Year and Deputy Head (Pastoral) convened to decide on course of action.

If appropriate the child will be suspended pending the Headmaster's decision. The Headmaster will inform the Chair of Governors of the outcome in the event of a positive test.



A student may be placed on a random drug testing protocol by the Headmaster for various reasons. Such arrangements will be reviewed after 12 months. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Year will signal when a test is due and inform the Medical Centre. If a Housemaster/ mistress has strong grounds to have a student, who is on such a protocol tested they should contact the Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Storage of Drugs Found at Millfield

All drugs found at Millfield should be;

- Handled by staff wearing gloves (provided in Search pack)
- Placed in evidence bags and clearly labelled
- Given to Deputy Head (Pastoral) immediately or placed in a house safe if directed to do so
- Deputy Head (Pastoral) will pass the drugs to the local police following the completion of any investigation and lock the drugs away in his office in the meantime

A student may be placed on a random drug testing protocol by the Headmaster for various reasons; such arrangements will always be reviewed after one year. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head of Year will signal when a test is due and inform the medical centre. If a Housemaster/mistress has strong grounds to have a student, who is on such a protocol, tested they should contact the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

References

DFE and ACPO drug advice for schools September 2012

Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

New Psychotic Substances (NPS) Resource Pack for Informal Educators and Practitioners

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971

Policy owner	KMW
Reviewed on	July 2019
Review by date	July 2020
Audited by Governor Committee	Education
Audited on	01/09/2019
Audit by date	N/A
Publication	Xtranet, Portal, Website