



Royal Russell

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE POLICY

This policy covers all pupils/students across the Junior and Senior School.

DEFINITION OF DRUGS FOR PURPOSES OF THIS POLICY:

Drugs refers to all drugs including medicines (all over the counter and prescription medicines), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, unauthorised substances and illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).

A substance is that which is taken to alter the way a person thinks, feels or behaves. Alcohol is a depressant drug.

Drugs refers to the possession, use and supply of controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, 'legal' drugs which can be obtained from a pharmacy, performance enhancing drugs, glue and other substances held or supplied for purposes of misuse. Note that pupils taking medication, whether prescribed or not, must ensure that this is carried out in conjunction with the School's Medical Centre. In such cases, the Medical Centre will advise on the necessary arrangements. Unlicensed medication is not permitted to be brought into school and, if found, will be confiscated and destroyed.

STATEMENT: Within this School community, possession, usage or supplying of drugs (as defined above) is not acceptable within the boundaries as later defined in this policy.

It is a condition of entry that parents of all those joining the School subscribe to this policy

AIMS:

- The School is committed to the health, safety and well-being of all of its community members and will deploy stringent and active measures to safeguard these aims and provide a safe environment in which the community can develop
- The School would like to encourage and enable its members to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle now, and in the future, and to equip its members with the personal and social skills which include harm reduction strategies to make reasoned and informed choices relating to drugs
- To minimise pupils' experimentation with harmful illegal drugs and substances
- The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role and alternatives to exclusion and will seek to persuade members in need of support to come forward
- The School has a planned drug education programme delivered through PSHE involving the development of skills, starting from the Early Years, which identifies learning outcomes appropriate to pupils' age, ability and levels of maturity.

CONSEQUENCES OF BREACH OF POLICY:

Supplying/providing drugs or being in possession of drugs:

- Any pupil supplying/providing drugs to other members of the community, or found in possession of drugs, on the school premises or during school activities must work on the apprehension that they will be asked to leave/be expelled.
- If a pupil is involved in the supply of drugs or controlled substances or incident outside of school that brings the school into disrepute pupils must also work on the apprehension that they will be asked to leave/be expelled.
- The Headmaster and Board of Governors will take each incidence on a case by case basis.
- Parents/guardians will be informed and the issues arising will be discussed as soon as possible.

TESTING

Pupils who, by their behaviour or their associations, give cause for suspicion that they might be misusing drugs or substances are required to take a drugs test.

Pupils may be required to complete testing over a period of time as agreed with the School and throughout their time as a pupil of the School.

The School will inform parents when a test is carried out.

Behaviour which might lead to a drugs test includes:

- being found in possession of drugs;
- persistently poor work or discipline;
- association with those found to be misusing drugs;
- bizarre, erratic or antisocial behaviour;
- parental concern;
- anything else that Pastoral Staff deem to provide cause for suspicion.

The authority to authorise a drugs test is delegated to the Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Refusal to provide a sample may result in an assumption of guilt. (Consideration will always be given to those taking other medication or with other physical conditions)

If the result of the drug test is positive, the pupil will be suspended from the School pending further investigation and discussion.

The School will decide following consultation and discussion with parents and other interested parties, whether or not the suspension will be fixed term or the pupil will be asked to leave the School.

BOUNDARIES:

This policy applies within and around the School gates, when a pupil is identifiable as a member of the School, at public transport stops, school trips (residential and non-residential), on work experience and anywhere on the School grounds.

MANAGING DRUG INCIDENTS:

What constitutes a drug incident in school?

- Suspicion of use or actual possession
- Suspicion of, or actual supplying (actual would be an automatic expulsion)
- Suspicion of, or being under influence.

How is this dealt with?

All are treated as a serious disciplinary offence and will be reported to Deputy Head Pastoral.

Any pupil who appears to be under the influence of drugs as defined in this policy should be given adequate medical care and attention as soon as possible.

Stages of involvement leading to police and other outside agencies

The Police and Youth Schools Section located at Croydon Police Station will be notified of any criminal incident and may be involved in any consequent action.

The School is committed to working closely with outside agencies to safeguard children individually and collectively

SEARCHES:

Whist respecting pupils' right to privacy, when there are reasonable grounds, the Deputy Head/s and/or Headmaster may require a pupil to show the contents of his/her locker/boarding areas or

other property to Senior Staff.

COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT:

If there is a perceived need for counselling and external support, the School would provide guidance about professional services available.

The School will ensure the pupils are aware of the policies listed in conjunction with the smoking policy and offer pastoral support and guidance through the House system. The Deputy Head, Pastoral will assist by liaising with the Housemaster/mistress, pupil and parents as needed/requested.

Whilst staff are always willing to offer sensitive advice and support to pupils, they should be aware that any information divulged to staff about illegal activity cannot be held in confidence and will be passed to Senior Staff who will inform the Deputy Head Pastoral.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

1. The Deputy Head Pastoral will keep and consider reports on serious incidents, and make a termly report, with statistics for the Headmaster.
2. The Headmaster will consider the reports with the School Leadership Team to determine what can be learned from the incidents and how they were handled with a view to improving the School's strategies.

OTHER:

Confidentiality

The School's approach to ensuring how sensitive information is disclosed internally and externally is with careful attention to pupils'/students' rights and needs.

ORIGIN OF THE POLICY:

This policy has been created by the Headmaster in consultation with the School Leadership Team.

LINKS:

This policy links with:

Alcohol Policy
Medical Centre Policy
PSHE Policy
Smoking Policy
Behaviour policy

WEBSITES:

<https://www.addaction.org.uk/>
<http://www.adfam.org.uk/>
<http://www.talktofrank.com/>
<http://familylives.org.uk/>

Reviewed by NDH	January 2019
Reviewed and approved by EWC	February 2019
Reviewed and approved by Board	March 2019
Next Review	January 2021