



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 parents if their son is involved in any incident involving illegal or psychoactive substances.

REPORTING

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

Any member of staff who is informed that or otherwise has reason to suspect or believe that a pupil is taking, dealing in or otherwise involved with illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items, should report the matter immediately to the Senior Deputy or (in their absence) the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular.

SEARCHES ETC

Where it is reported or suspected that a pupil has illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items on his person or in his possession at the College, the following action will normally be taken:

- 1.** The pupil will be interviewed by a senior member of staff (with another member of staff present).
- 2.** He may 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. If a pupil refuses, the College will try to contact the parents. The police may also be involved.
- 3.** If any illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or associated items are found, the pupil will be questioned further, with the parents in attendance (if they are available at the time) and a witness. If the pupil's parents cannot be contacted or are not available at the time, the interview may go ahead without them.

INVOLVING THE POLICE

In all cases, the College reserves the right to inform the police if it deems it to be necessary. A decision as to whether the police should be called in will be affected by: The items found on any search, whether other pupils are involved and the wider circumstances.

Although each incident will be treated separately, the College is likely to want to take action itself (in addition to any police action). The College will consider suspension or exclusion.

DRUG TESTING

When can a drug 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 Senior Deputy or (in their absence) the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular.

What does the College do before the test is conducted?

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

An appointment is made with the Medical Centre for a test to be conducted. Arrangements are made for the test to be properly supervised. Usually, the Senior Deputy or the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular will be the test supervisor but there will be occasions when it will be necessary to appoint another member of staff.

The College only informs the pupil that a test is required immediately before the test.

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 Senior Deputy (or in their absence the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular) will be informed.

Once the Senior Deputy (or in their absence the Deputy Master Pastoral & Co-Curricular) has received written information of a test result, the Senior Deputy (or in their absence the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular) will notify the Master, the Head of School and the pupil's parents by telephone as soon as possible. (This will give time for consultation and enable 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 Senior Deputy (or in their absence the Deputy Master Pastoral and Co-Curricular) will send the written confirmation of the test result to the pupil's parents.

Who pays for the 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.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this document:

<p>“associated items” means items used in connection with the manufacture, use, storage, sale or concealment of illegal drugs or psychoactive substances</p>
<p>“at the College” means each of the following: (a) on College premises; (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); (c) when travelling on a coach or other transport organised by the College; and (d) 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</p>
<p>“illegal drug” 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>
<p>“psychoactive substance” 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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