



This policy is principally concerned with illegal drugs. The policy also provides a framework for the school's approach to alcohol, legal substances and prescription medicines when used for recreational purposes because of their effects on the body.

A AIMS

1. The School aims to educate all students about drug use and abuse in a manner which is suited to their age and experience. We aim to enable students to be able to make informed and healthy choices based on adequate knowledge, self-confidence and lack of fear. We aim to educate students to comply with the law and to provide an ethical framework which supports our Personal, Social and Health Education policy.
2. We offer staff, young people, their peers and parents, information, advice and support where necessary. Confidentiality is kept wherever possible but cannot be maintained if there is a risk of significant harm to a student or if the nature of an incident requires police or other agencies to be informed.
3. It is our intention to maintain the reputation of the School and to ensure that it is not damaged or threatened in any way.
4. We aim to minimise the risk to our students by excluding those who contravene the School's Drugs policy. Permanent exclusion is a strong possibility.
5. This policy applies at all times on the school site, in its vicinity and whenever the School is in loco parentis, (for example, throughout the school day and whenever staff are responsible for students on school trips or at performances). It also applies to any student who receives a police caution or a conviction for a drugs offence.

B. EDUCATION

The School's PSHE programme clearly underpins the aims of this Drugs policy. It covers information on tobacco, alcohol, illegal substances and also the new generation of legal substances which are taken for their body altering properties. PSHE aims to develop self-regulation in students, to raise their self-esteem and to enable them to make positive and informed choices to which they can adhere.

C. POLICY

1. KAS is a drug-free site. Prescription drugs may be brought in to school by prior arrangement with the School Nurse. Upper School students need to notify the School Nurse if they are bringing prescribed medication into school and must take the responsibility for keeping it on their person at all times. Students may carry their own inhalers and epipens as long as the school has been notified by parents. Alcohol is permitted only at the discretion of the Head and the KAS Smoking Policy also applies.
2. Illegal drugs and experimental substances must not be brought into School at any time. They must not be used during the school day, which includes the time before and after school, break times, lunchtimes and during non-contact lessons. No individual should encourage or coerce others to buy or use them.
3. The School will investigate any rumour about involvement with drugs or substances and may need to search bags, lockers or outer clothing and take possession of personal property. If the Head or a Deputy Head forms the reasonable suspicion that a student has been involved with drugs, the School will invoke measures which include counselling, parental and peer negotiation, drugs education and assurance from the student of their commitment to address the issue. The student's history and personal circumstances at the time will also be considered.

Saliva Drug testing may be used as a supportive measure if it is considered to be helpful after consultation with the parents and student and with their consent.

4. It will be usual to suspend any student associated with a drugs incident for a period of time until investigations are complete (this can be considered a neutral act if it is used to protect the individuals involved; if a student is exonerated the suspension will be removed from their record). Further action will be decided upon after a thorough investigation has taken place; this could involve immediate permanent exclusion.

D. INFORMATION AND ADVICE

1. Students and parents are reminded that on health matters and worries, the School Nurse, School Counsellors and others are available for consultation and advice.
2. Students and parents can also approach the Head or any of the staff in the knowledge that any conversation will be treated sensitively. Only in cases where the safety of an individual, or of others, is at risk does the Head reserve the right to deal with an incident in the context of the School's wider rules, but all such matters will be characterised by appropriately humane and pastoral concern.
3. If parents are dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation they can invoke the School's Complaints procedure (available on the KAS website).