



# Drugs Policy

**Last Updated**

December 2019

# THE KING ALFRED SCHOOL DRUGS POLICY

## 1. SCOPE OF POLICY

This policy is principally concerned with illegal drugs, as defined by legislation such as the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971, and the Psychoactive Substances Act, 2016.

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.

It 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 school events).

## 2. AIMS

To educate all students about drug use and abuse in a manner which is suited to their age and experience.

To ensure that our students and their families receive the appropriate information, advice and support.

To ensure the health, safety and well-being of all in the community by maintaining KAS as a drug free site.

## 3. EDUCATION

The School's PSHE programme supports our 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.

This will be delivered both in-house and through external speakers who have direct experience of drug use and abuse

PSHE aims to develop self-regulation in students, and enable them to make positive and informed choices.

We also seek to educate parents through workshops and talks, which will be held on a regular basis.

## 4. INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Students and parents can approach the School Nurse, School Counsellors and pastoral staff for consultation and advice.

In some cases, school staff may be able to help directly. In other cases, a more specialist intervention may be required, and the school will either refer directly to the relevant agency, or signpost these for families.

Any conversation will be treated sensitively. 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.

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.

If the Head or delegated member of staff forms the reasonable suspicion that

a student has been involved with drugs **outside of school**, then the School will, where appropriate, seek to support that student through counselling, parental and peer negotiation, drugs education and assurance from the student of their commitment to address the issue.

Saliva or equivalent 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.

## **5. DRUG FREE SITE**

**KAS is a drug-free site.** This is necessary in order to ensure the health and safety of all in the school community, which includes Reception child of four years of age and upwards.

- Illegal drugs, experimental substances or equipment connected to drugs must not be brought into School, at any time.
- They must not be in someone's possession at any time during the school day, which includes the time before and after school, break times, lunchtimes and during non-contact lessons.
- They must not be used at any time during the school day, which includes the time before and after school, break times, lunchtimes and during non-contact lessons.
- They must not be shared with others, passed on to others, or sold to others, at any time 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 drugs.

**Prescription drugs** only may be brought into 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 in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Head

KAS is a **non-Smoking site** – please see KAS smoking policy.

## **6. PROACTIVE AND REACTIVE MEASURES**

The school will take proactive measures to deter the breaching of this policy. This will include education as outlined above. It may also include, for example, working with drug-detecting dogs.

The School will investigate any well-founded rumour about involvement with drugs or substances and may need to search bags, lockers or outer clothing and take possession of personal property.

If a student is found to have breached this policy, then It will be usual to **suspend** them for a period of time until investigations are complete. Further action will be decided upon after a thorough investigation has taken place. A first offence of

**possession** of drugs or drug equipment will lead to a serious sanction. Depending on the circumstances, this may either be removal from the school, or a package of measures including suspension, final warning and support. Other than in exceptional circumstances, any repeat will lead to removal from the school.

A first offence of **using** drugs or drug equipment will lead to a serious sanction. This is likely to be removal from the school, but, depending on the circumstances, may lead to an enhanced package of measures including suspension, final warning and support. Other than in exceptional circumstances, any repeat will lead to removal from the school.

Other than in exceptional circumstances, such as where a student has been coerced into such an action, an offence of **dealing or supplying** drugs will lead to removal from the school. Whereas using drugs puts oneself at risk, dealing drugs places others at risk, and therefore this is the highest level of offence.

The school will liaise and cooperate with the **Police** as appropriate where it is suspected a criminal offence has taken place.

## **7. REVIEW**

This policy will be reviewed at least every 3 years.