

SECTION 3.2 - POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

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Introduction

The school believes that the taking of illegal drugs is wrong and that the misuse of legal drugs, such as alcohol, vaping and cigarettes, is potentially dangerous; and that either situation can have detrimental effects on the individual's health and the community. Therefore, the School believes that these matters should be dealt with in an open, honest and responsible manner. This section sets out the policy and procedures for such matters.

Definition

The term 'drugs' in this policy refers to any substance that can affect one's physical or psychological state or perception. It includes prescribed and over the counter medicines, Class A, B and C drugs and any substance that can be abused including "legal highs" as defined by the The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

The School's Aims and Objectives

The School's main aims and objectives are:

- To uphold the law of the land by preventing the use of illegal drugs and controlling the use of legal drugs.
- To make it clear that the school will not accept the misuse of drugs (legal or illegal), alcohol, smoking and vaping by its members nor the illegal supply of these substances. This includes offering to supply, being in possession with the intent to supply or being involved or concerned in any of this activity.
- To provide an educational environment where the health and safety of all students and staff are of paramount importance and where action is taken to safeguard their well-being.
- To increase young people's understanding of the implications and possible consequences of the use and misuse of substances including illegal drugs, alcohol and nicotine.
- To minimise the risk to young people by excluding students who introduce others to the abuse of illegal or otherwise dangerous substances, who supply them with such substances or who fail to respond to warnings and advice given.
- To provide awareness training for members of the teaching and pastoral staff so that they may be able both to give advice and engage in informed discussion with students and also to identify symptoms of drug abuse and take appropriate action if necessary.
- To provide young people and their parents with access to information, advice and appropriate counselling/support, both inside and outside the school.

Education

The School's Horizons (PSHE) programme is taught by specialist teachers and tutors, to all year groups and is supplemented for different year groups by additional lessons specifically about the issues surrounding drugs. This programme includes information and discussion about tobacco, alcohol, solvents and legal and illegal drugs and their misuse by young people. Outside agencies and experts are invited into the school from time to time to talk to different year groups in the school and to parents. As well as providing information, it aims to develop students' self-esteem and to encourage them to make positive decisions about their own conduct.

Information, Advice and Support

The School Nurses and School Counsellors are available to provide advice and help to young people according to the rules of medical confidentiality. They can refer students elsewhere for further counselling or help where it is appropriate.

Information leaflets and pamphlets are available for students in the Health Centre. The telephone number of the Surrey Drugs Helpline is published at various places. The school is in touch with local drug prevention and drug counselling services.

Children and parents should know that they can approach the Deputy Head, Assistant Head Pastoral, Head of Sixth Form, Head or the school's medical staff for advice or to share information and worries they may have. While the school must reserve the right to deal with an infringement according to its rules and disciplinary procedures, it will generally not do so in the first instance of voluntary self-disclosure, unless the well-being of others is involved. In every case, the school's actions will be governed by a sense of pastoral concern.

The school will periodically use drug dogs around the school site to ensure that the school remains a drug free environment.

Rules and Procedures

Illegal Drugs

The following steps are to be followed when dealing with illegal drugs:

- If a student is suspected of taking, being involved with or being under the influence of illegal drugs at school, inform the Assistant Head Pastoral, Head of Sixth Form, Deputy Head or Head. The school may require the student to undergo a urine test at the Health Centre. If found to be positive that student will be sanctioned appropriately as stated in the school rules with the student placed on supportive monitoring.
- The school will, as appropriate, notify the police of any breach of the law related to drugs on school premises.
- Any student found to be supplying or being in possession of illegal drugs with the intent to supply, will be sanctioned according to the School Rules. The police will be asked to advise whether an amount of illegal drugs (or related paraphernalia) is sufficient to be classed as "supply". This judgment by the police will then affect any further decision on the severity of the school's response.

- If a student is found in possession of drugs-related paraphernalia, the school would consider this as involvement with drugs and therefore the student can expect to be sanctioned accordingly.

Drugs Testing Process

The usual method of testing is a urine test, and it is a prime concern to the school that the testing is carried out in a dignified and hygienic way. The equipment used tests for a wide range of illegal substances and includes an in-built temperature gauge to ensure the validity of the sample. The testing of a substance may also be carried out using specialist testing kits if the school are unsure about a substance.

The Deputy Head or Head reserves the right to request a drug test when there is reasonable suspicion of the misuse of illegal drugs, or if individual circumstances suggest it would be warranted. The school believes that urine testing helps to remove the problem of uncertainty and any lingering suspicion which often emerges during an investigation. In the event of a student refusing to take a drugs test, or parents/guardians refusing consent, the school reserves the right to take further disciplinary action when the evidence suggests that the student has been involved in drugs use. The Assistant Head Pastoral, Head of Sixth Form or Deputy Head will inform parents/guardians when a student has been required to undertake a urine test, informing them of the outcome.

Alcohol

Students are not permitted to consume Alcohol on school premises, except for senior students under adult supervision at certain authorised functions. Sixth form students are allowed to have two drinks (wine, beer or cider) at their social events evenings with food.

Students who are under the influence, or in possession, of small quantities of beer, cider or wine on site will face a sanction as set out in the school rules.

Students who are heavily under the influence, or in possession, of spirits, large quantities of beer, wine or other drinks of a similar alcohol content must expect a stronger sanction.

If it was felt appropriate in the view of the Deputy Head/ Head or School Counsellor then counselling may be required for a student who has developed a history of alcohol abuse.

Smoking and Vaping

1. The school campus is a completely non-smoking/non vaping area. Students are not allowed to smoke/vape at school or on school trips.
2. Any Students caught smoking/vaping or in possession of smoking/vaping related paraphernalia should be reported to the Assistant Head Pastoral or Head of Sixth Form where possible, who in turn will communicate with Heads of School, House staff, tutors and parents as appropriate.
3. Staff may require Students to turn out their pockets and can ask to search bags if they suspect involvement of smoking/vaping.
4. Older students who are either smoking/vaping in the company of younger students or supplying cigarettes/vapes or encouraging smoking/vaping, will be considered to be setting a particularly bad example and must expect an increased level of sanction.

5. Because long term smoking/use of nicotine is addictive, we would seek to support students by offering the support of the Health Centre; these Students will be offered assistance in stopping smoking through specialist smoking cessation sessions and support. These Students, would, however, be subject to the same rules and sanctions as everyone else.
6. The dangers of smoking and vaping will continue to be addressed in Horizons' lessons. Education against smoking and other social problems remains the school's best tool in trying to manage smoking and the addiction of the young.
7. Sanctions for smoking can be found in the School Rules (available on the school's website, posters around school or Section 2.1 of the Staff Handbook)

Cumulative Offences

Any student who has a history of persistent breaches of school rules will face a strong sanction as stated in the school rules.