

SECTION 3.2 - POLICY ON SUBSTANCE USE AND MISUSE

Latest version issued	January 2023	
Review cycle	2 years	
Issue control		
Date	Comment	Ownership
December 2022		Head/Deputy Head

Introduction

The School believes that the taking of illegal drugs is wrong and that the misuse of legal drugs, such as alcohol, tobacco/nicotine over the counter medication and 'legal highs', is potentially dangerous; and that either situation can have detrimental effects on the individual's health and the community. We believe that these matters should be dealt with in an open, honest and responsible manner. As a school we are aware that it is our responsibility to do all we can to educate, protect and deter students from involvement in drugs related behaviors.

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) and alcohol 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 tobacco/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 Horizon (PSME/RSE) programme is taught by team of specialist teams in curriculum time. It is also supported by additional session run by Form and Sixth Form Tutors and/or the Pastoral Team as needed. 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.

The School also may use the service of external experts such as Police or Drugs Search and Education Company to help educate students on the risks associated with drugs. We will endeavour to use announced visits as part of an education program, or unannounced visits where we are concerned that there may be drugs on our campus.

Information, Advice and Support

The School Doctor, School Nurses and School Counsellor are available to provide advice and help to young people according to the rules of medical confidentiality. They are able to refer students elsewhere for further counselling or help where it is appropriate. The Nurses will complete a "Catch 22" referral form to see if specialist external support may also be 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.

Students and parents should know that they can approach the Head, Deputy 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.

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 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 placed on a supportive regime, including periodic testing, for the

remainder of the student's time at the school. If any subsequent test is found to be positive, then the student shall be required to leave the school immediately.

- The School will, as appropriate, notify the police of any breach of the law related to drugs on school premises. This is usually via completing an online form with the local police, or a call for support if we have concerns over drug dealing, child exploitation or due to a complex situation that is beyond our experience.
- Any student found to be supplying, or being in possession of illegal drugs with the intent to supply, will be expelled from Frensham Heights School. The police will be asked to advise whether an amount of illegal drugs 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.
- In other cases, if the School does not consider other children to be at risk, it may allow a student to continue after a period of suspension, on condition that both the student and his or her parents sign a supportive regime in which they agree to the student undergoing periodic random testing and being offered counselling, both at parents' expense, and at the school's discretion for the remainder of the student's time at the school. If any such test is found to be positive, then the student shall be required to leave the school immediately.
- If the School accepts a student from another school from which he or she has been asked to leave because of involvement in drugs, it would only do so on condition that the student and their parents sign a supportive regime and are offered counselling, if appropriate, and to undergo periodic testing. If any such test is found to be positive, then the student shall be required to leave the school immediately.
- If a student is suspected of taking Class A or B illegal drugs or is proven to have used such drugs through a urine test it is very likely to lead to an immediate expulsion, even as a first offence.

Drugs Testing Process

The school does not currently use all forms of testing, such as Hair Follicle, but these tests may be incorporated into our procedures if appropriate. 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 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 Deputy Head will inform parents/guardians when a student has been required to undertake a urine test, informing them of the outcome.

Alcohol

Alcohol is forbidden on school premises, except for senior students under adult supervision at certain authorised functions. Students who are under the influence, or in possession, of small quantities of beer, cider or wine on site will be gated in the first instance and should expect to be suspended for any subsequent offences. On a fourth breach of this rule students should expect to be expelled. Students who are under the influence, or in possession, of spirits, large quantities of beer, wine or other drinks of a similar alcohol content must expect to be externally suspended for a first offence. If it was felt appropriate in the view of the Head or School Counsellor, then counselling may be required for a student who has developed a history of alcohol abuse. Students who bring alcoholic spirits on site will be suspended in the first instance (infringement may result in suspension for between 1 and 7 days) and further abuse of this rule will lead to expulsion.

Smoking

Further details are given at Section 3.4 – Smoking Policy.

Cumulative Offences

Any student who has a history of persistent breaches of school rules faces expulsion for a first offence of any of the above.