



Drugs Policy

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 The School recognises the widespread availability of drugs in today's society and also that the issue of drug use is constantly evolving. The School also acknowledges the social and other pressures that can lead to drug use by young people. The School maintains its stance in trying to provide a safe, drug-free environment as well as educating its pupils about the choices they make either on or off the School site and the implications of these choices.
- 1.2 Definition: 'drugs' includes legal substances such as tobacco and alcohol, medicines, volatile substances, new psychoactive substances (formerly known as "legal highs"), illegal drugs and other unauthorised substances. The school maintains that supply, possession and/or use of any such drugs is inappropriate and in breach of the School Rules.
- 1.3 Education: The science curriculum teaches about the effects of substance abuse on health and body function. CPSHE lessons and workshops provide further information on drug taking and encourage pupils to make healthy informed choices concerning use and abuse of drugs in a wider social context.

2. The Policy

- 2.1. Medical emergencies will be dealt with according to the First Aid policy.
- 2.2. Possession, consumption or supply of drugs in the school environment is an offence, an assessment of which will lead to disciplinary action up to, and including, permanent exclusion.
- 2.3. The Headmaster or Deputy Head (Pastoral) reserve the right to ask any pupil to undertake a drug test where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion.
- 2.4. When dealing with drug-related incidents the School will try to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with the wider school community. The School's Behaviour Rewards and Sanctions Policy (which includes guidance on searches) and Exclusions Policy will be used for guidance. However, pupils who supply drugs, or encourage others to use them, or who bring drugs onto the School site can expect to be permanently excluded. Similarly, failure of a drugs test is likely to result in permanent exclusion.

- 2.5. If a pupil is found guilty of possession or use of drugs and not permanently excluded, remaining at Reed's will be conditional on compliance with drug testing at the expense of the parents/guardians. Further offences or failed tests will result in permanent exclusion.
- 2.6. A previous record of possession or use of drugs may make a place at Reed's conditional on compliance with drug testing. A failure of any subsequent test will result in permanent exclusion.
- 2.7. The school may notify the police and/or external agencies about the possession, consumption or supply of illegal drugs and assist in their enquiries. The law permits the school to take temporary possession of an illegal (or suspected illegal) drug to prevent an offence or continuation of an offence. Such substances will be disposed of appropriately, and possibly by handing over to the police.
- 2.8. In the event of a pupil being allowed to commence at, continue at, or return to school following a drugs offence, every effort will be made to offer counselling and support to the pupil concerned. Compliance may be considered a condition of remaining at Reed's.

3. Testing Procedure

- 3.1. The School will use both urine and hair testing procedures.
- 3.2. Parents/guardians and pupils will be informed on a case by case basis which procedure (urine or hair) will be used.
- 3.3. A copy of the testing procedure to be followed will be provided to parents/guardians and pupils in advance of testing.
- 3.4. Consent from parents/guardians will be sought prior to testing. Should such consent not be granted and unless there is overwhelming medical evidence against a test, this would constitute admission of guilt and the pupil(s) will not be allowed back to the School until the situation has been resolved.

4. Support

- 4.1. Any pupils who feel at risk as a result of their or others' behaviour are encouraged to seek support through any of the existing School channels or specialist agencies to which they could be referred.

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