



Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

POLICY STATEMENT

Involvement with drugs can be damaging to health, even life-threatening, and the College wishes, with the help of parents, to deter pupils from becoming involved in any aspect of substance abuse.

SCOPE

This is a cross-College policy for pupils.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aim of this policy is:

- To educate and safeguard the welfare of all members of the College community;
- To deter pupils from drug and substance abuse;
- To provide procedures for any incident or person involved or suspected of being involved in drug or substance abuse;
- To provide appropriate pastoral support.

LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
- Education and Inspections Act 2006
- Education Act 2011
- Psychoactive Substances Act 2016
- DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All members of the teaching staff share a responsibility for the implementation of this policy. The policy is made clear to pupils through the school rules and is published on the college website. New parents receive a copy with the parents' handbook. Further copies are available to parents or pupils on request.

RELATED COLLEGE POLICIES

- Rewards and Sanctions Policy (Upper School)
- Behaviour Policy (Prep)
- Smoking Policy (cross-College)
- Alcohol Policy (cross-College)
- Medicines Management Policy (cross-College)



MONITOR AND REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually and at other times in the intervening period as necessary.

Drugs and Substance Abuse Procedures

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The law places drugs in three categories, Class A, B and C; these are known as 'controlled substances'. Class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful, and Class C the least harmful. Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 it is an offence to possess a controlled substance unlawfully, possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it, to supply a controlled substance unlawfully, to allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for the process of drug taking. Trafficking (supply) attracts more serious punishments, including life imprisonment for Class A offences. Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, production, distribution and consumption of so called 'legal highs' is also illegal.

RULES

The College rules state that involvement with drugs is forbidden. This rule extends to the holiday period and use outside of the school day for day pupils.

The College is aware that some substances which are not illegal may have an intoxicating, and/or stimulating and/or hallucinating effect. The use of animal, mineral or vegetable products, including cannabis infused products, which have such an effect is against school rules and pupils using such substances may be dealt with in a similar fashion to those who use illegal substances. The use or possession of anabolic steroids is expressly forbidden.

It should be noted that the College's definition of drugs includes psychoactive substances and those substances which are misused to create a so-called 'legal high'. These include such substances as nitrous oxide, ketamine (class B since June 2014), alkyl nitrates 'poppers', and volatile substances (those which give off a gas, or vapour, which can be inhaled), prescribed medication as well as controlled drugs; this is not an exhaustive list. In addition, performance-enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, fall within the scope of this policy. Nor are pupils allowed to be in possession of the paraphernalia associated with drugs.

SANCTIONS

The College regards the purchasing, possession of drugs or the paraphernalia associated with drugs, distribution, sale or use of drugs or substances on or off campus as extremely serious offences. Our response to an admission, positive test result, or other evidence of a pupil's involvement with drugs will vary according to circumstances.

Pupils involved in purchasing, distributing or selling any class of illegal drugs are likely to be permanently excluded, as will those who have any involvement with Class A drugs.



Day pupils, or boarders on exeat, should expect to be treated in the same way as boarders if they are involved in the same incident.

EDUCATION

Through the curriculum and visits by outside speakers, pupils will be informed about drugs and given an opportunity to debate the issues concerning their use and abuse. Drugs education is included in the Block I lecture programme and the Block II and years 7 and 8 PSHE schemes of work and there are further occasional lectures or talks for pupils. Parents are sometimes invited to talks and will be informed whenever this policy is reviewed. We aim to keep staff up-to-date by means of both internal and external INSET. These issues will also be discussed by sports staff, with particular reference to performance enhancing drugs.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

Any member of staff who has concerns over the welfare of a pupil which he/she considers could possibly come from involvement with illegal drugs should speak in person with the pupil's HoM who will share the concern with the Deputy Head Pastoral. If appropriate the HoM will share these concerns with the parent/guardian in order to consider the pastoral welfare of the individual.

DRUGS TESTS

The College may require a pupil to undertake a drugs/breathalyser test where staff believe there are reasonable grounds for doing so. On occasions pupils might be required to take drugs tests on an ongoing basis. These will usually be carried out in accordance with the procedures below.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to choose not to have a test and to make an admission. The College may be required to inform the police depending on the circumstances. Pupils may be asked to undergo a drug/breathalyser test where suspicion is based on one or a combination of the following:

- changes in behaviour, erratic behaviour, health or attendance, significant alteration in academic performance;
- involvement in a drug incident;
- implication by association and peer group associations;
- physical signs;
- information received;
- discovery of drug paraphernalia;
- any other reasonable grounds.



Procedure:

- The decision to require a pupil to take a drugs test is made by the Head Master or Deputy Head (Pastoral), in consultation with the pupil's HoM (or Assistant HoM or the Marshal, if the HoM is unavailable).
- The HoM makes every reasonable effort to contact the pupil's parents/guardian. If unable to contact the pupil's parent/guardian, the consent of the pupil if aged 16 or over or if considered to be of sufficient maturity and understanding will be sought before the test is undertaken.
- Refusal to take a breathalyser/drugs test will suggest that the outcome is likely to be positive and will bring the pupil's place at Clifton into question.