



Anti-Drugs Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following School policies and other documents: Behaviour and Discipline including School Rules; Sanctions Policy; Search and Confiscation Policy; Child Protection Policy; Expulsion, Removal and Review Policy; PSHE Programme of Study; Medicines (homely) list; Medicines Policy

Further sources: Working Together to Safeguard Children, Keeping Children Safe in Education

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this policy, 'drug' means a substance which "when taken into the body, alters the body's function physically and/or psychologically" (drugaware.com). Separate policies on alcohol and smoking (including vaping) deal with those matters in more detail. As a response to the increased incidence and use of cannabis-based vaping substances among young people, the School may deal with pupils who are found or suspected to have used vapes under this Anti-Drugs Policy.

Drugs covered by this policy include:

- over-the-counter or prescription drugs
- legal drugs when misused, including volatile substances
- performance-enhancing drugs
- new psychoactive substances (NPS)

OVERVIEW STATEMENT

At King Edward's School, the safeguarding of our pupils comes before all else. We recognise that drugs are harmful; drug misuse is likely to undermine health, safety, independence, opportunities, and respect for the law. Across the world, the harm caused by drug misuse is growing and constitutes a public health emergency (*House of Commons Health and Social Care, Report 2019*). The School's Anti-drugs Policy seeks to prevent misuse of drugs by its pupils and to maintain a drug-free environment for the School community. A breach of the School's policy will be regarded as a very serious breach of discipline, amongst other things.

The School addresses the issue of drugs in four ways:

- by educating pupils about the issues and dangers of drug use and misuse;
- by instilling in our pupils the self-confidence and independence to say "no" when responding to pressure to consume drugs;
- by detection and sanctions;
- by offering help to any pupil who tells us they are struggling with drug misuse.

The School reserves the right to inform the Police where it reasonably suspects that the law has been broken.

The School is committed to working closely with outside agencies to safeguard children individually and collectively. Surrey Police is committed to avoiding the criminalisation of young people where possible. Through the local Waverley Youth Intervention Officer, the School seeks to help pupils wherever possible, including referral to the specialist counselling charity 'Catch 22'.

This policy will be reviewed regularly, to keep up with developments, above and beyond the scheduled policy review cycle.

The policy applies to all pupils at King Edward's School irrespective of their age, in accordance with the School's duty of care in safeguarding.

The School reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, and to adapt the procedures and sanctions contained herein in order to meet the aims of the policy and the circumstances of each case.

Possession of the paraphernalia of drug use may be interpreted as evidence of drug use itself and treated accordingly.

EDUCATION

Education on harmful substances is an important part of the School's PSHE curriculum. In addition, the PE department Programme of Study covers the dangers of performance-enhancing drugs at KS4, IB and A-level. There is regular specific training for pastoral staff as well as wider staff training which includes the issues of 'county lines' and Child Criminal Exploitation. Pupils have talks by both House and year group. During such talks, pupils have the opportunity to ask questions without the presence of teachers in order to encourage information exchange. In addition, there are talks for parents with the opportunity for parents to engage with senior pastoral staff, School policy and the specialist speaker. There are posters placed prominently in Houses which direct pupils to the appropriate people and agencies to help with all issues relating to drug misuse.

DETECTION AND DETERRENCE

The testing procedure exists to deter pupils from misusing drugs, to identify pupils who have misused drugs and to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected of misusing drugs.

Pupils, who by their behaviour or their associations, give reasonable cause for suspicion that they might be misusing drugs will be required to take a drugs test. Such cause includes but is not limited to:

- being found in possession of drugs or their paraphernalia;
- persistently poor work or discipline;
- a marked change in attitude; 'change' is the operative word for adolescent patterns of behaviour which may be associated with the misuse of drugs
- association with those found to be misusing drugs;
- unusual, erratic or antisocial behaviour;
- concerns expressed by pupils' parents.

These tests must be authorised by the Deputy Head or Head. A pupil reasonably suspected of involvement with drugs may be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation which will be expedited as soon as possible.

It is a condition of entry that parents of all those joining the School subscribe to this policy. The School will inform parents as soon as possible that a test has been carried out. The drugs test will typically be via a urine sample. However, in certain circumstances other appropriate tests may be conducted. Refusal to take a test is liable to be treated as if the test had been performed and had proved positive.

SEARCHES

If staff believe a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia it may be appropriate for a member of staff to carry out:

- a personal search including the searching of outer clothing and inside pockets; and/or
- a search of school property, e.g. pupils' lockers or desks; and/or
- a search of personal property (e.g. bag or pencil case within a locker)

Searches will be conducted in accordance with the published guidelines in the [Behaviour and Discipline Policy](#) (paragraph 3) in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress.

CONSEQUENCES

Pupils who sell drugs, distribute them, or facilitate others' use of them, forfeit their place at the School.

Pupils who are found to have taken drugs and/or test positive forfeit their right to remain in the School. However, at the sole discretion of the Head, they may be allowed to re-enter the School where she is satisfied that there are relevant mitigating circumstances, and on condition that pupils submit to a regime of frequent mandatory testing for the remainder of their career in the School. They will also be offered appropriate counselling. The Head is not obliged to offer a supportive regime in addition to this.

Where drug misuse occurs

- i. on the School's premises or
- ii. under the School's jurisdiction (for example, on School trips or away at sports matches) or
- iii. when a pupil is under the influence of drugs in these situations

the School will always deal with the case as a disciplinary matter except as below in cases where a pupil has sought help with drug misuse from Medical Centre staff.

Where drug misuse occurs in other situations, the School's response will have regard to the School rules and in particular the statement *'School rules apply directly to all pupils when they are under the responsibility of the School, but the School will continue to have regard to pupils' behaviour at other times, if it is deemed to have an impact on School life in any way'*.

With regard to disciplinary consequences, account will be taken of whether the pupil has voluntarily sought help from the Medical Centre in connection with their drug misuse or been referred for treatment and support. In such situations, provided that the circumstances are genuine, the matter will not be dealt with as a disciplinary issue, unless an investigation is already under way and provided that the case has not:

- i. included supply to others or facilitating others' use or
- ii. taken place under the School's jurisdiction or on the School's premises (as above).

This does not preclude any disciplinary response at a later stage if the circumstances of the misuse are found to be materially different from pupils' initial accounts. This procedure will always be followed up with a rigorous programme of rehabilitation, detoxification where necessary, and testing. Any relapse will result in a pupil being required to leave the School.

If a pupil is expelled or required to leave, they and their parents will be offered a Review by a School Governors' Committee which will normally take place under a separate procedure, within ten days. The pupil's suspension may be continued in the interim.

TESTING

If, outside the context of confidential disclosures made in order to seek help (as above), there is reason to suspect that a pupil has been involved with drugs, they may be asked to supply, under medical supervision, a urine, blood, hair or saliva sample for analysis. The reason for this is:

- to deter the misuse of drugs
- to identify users
- to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected

Reason to suspect misuse of drugs may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour.

The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided s/he is of sufficient maturity and understanding. If consent is refused, the pupil will be asked to say why they have refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from their response and general demeanour, and the police may be informed.

Medical record

The outcome of the test, whether positive or negative, will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record.

Outcome

Upon completion of the test:

- Reasonable attempts will be made to notify a parent or guardian by telephone
- If the result is negative, the second sample will be destroyed immediately
- If the result is positive, the second sample will be made available for independent analysis

In the case of a positive test, a meeting will be arranged in which the Deputy Head will outline the sanction that will be imposed, in accordance with provisions above (*Consequences*).

Testing procedures

The test will be conducted under medical supervision with a member of School staff present. All due care will be taken to respect the pupil's privacy and human rights. The test will be in accordance with standard good practice, and will include a written record of the procedure and consent for the results to be made available to the Deputy Head.

Mandatory testing following drugs offences (as detailed above):

In cases where a pupil remains or is accepted at the School, having previously been found to have been involved in drugs, they must submit to a programme of frequent mandatory tests, administered in accordance with established procedures, for the remainder of their time at School. If a pupil fails any such test, they will be required to leave the School immediately.