

Dangerous or Illegal Substances Policy

Policy Type	Non-regulatory
Last Review	Autumn 2017
Next Review	Autumn 2018

Dangerous or Illegal Substances Policy

This policy is applicable to the whole school including EYFS. The school is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. It will not tolerate the possession, use or supply of dangerous or illegal substances (including drugs, tobacco, solvents and alcohol) in a school context (including all trips).

In this policy:

- Drugs and substances means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.
- Alcohol means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions.
- Tobacco means any tobacco-related product and paraphernalia including cigarettes, cigars, pipes and any other smoking related products such as nicotine substitutes and electronic cigarettes.

The School rules forbid a pupil from:

- smoking inside or outside the School, being in possession of tobacco (or e-cigarettes) while in the care of the School or supplying tobacco to other pupils;
- any possession, use or supply of drugs and substances;
- bringing alcohol onto School premises or being in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtaining or supplying alcohol to another, or being impaired by alcohol while on School premises or in the care of the School;
- bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with tobacco, alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy. For alcohol and tobacco offences, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently for a serious breach or persistent minor breaches.

Any girl supplying drugs must expect to be permanently expelled immediately even if she is about to sit public examinations. Any girl possessing or using drugs must also expect to be permanently expelled.

Within the context of the stated aims we wish to make clear the consequences of behaviour which would compromise the ethos of the school, or present a danger to the school or those within its community. We educate girls to understand how their actions will be viewed and dealt with in the outside world, beyond the safety of their home and family as extended by the School. The sanctions used support the principle of keeping the school drugs-free.

We recognise that outside school girls are exposed to many temptations in terms of substance abuse. Our PSHE programme supports both girls and parents in respect of those pressures and parents are encouraged to be involved in our general educational programme on these issues. Presentations by reformed drug addicts have reinforced, especially for older girls, the serious consequences of being associated with illegal drugs: within a short time many girls will be interested in GAP years, travel and careers which may take them all over the world. Association with illegal drugs may limit their access to these desired outcomes.

The Headmistress, and staff authorised by the Headmistress, may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has alcohol, tobacco products or controlled drugs in their possession. See the School's Behaviour Policy for details of the searching procedure.

If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. The School may use its discretion to decide whether police involvement is appropriate. See the School's Behaviour Policy for details about confiscation of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

If it appears that there is a case of a pupil using, possessing or supplying drugs, alcohol or tobacco, the Headmistress will see the girl and her parents in accordance with the School's Behaviour Policy. A girl found in breach of the rules should expect to be permanently excluded in accordance with the School's Expulsion Removal and Review Policy. It is the policy at this School not to offer places to girls who have been expelled from other schools for offences relating to abuse of illegal substances.