



DRUGS POLICY

RESPONSIBILITY	PRINCIPAL & SENIOR DEPUTY HEAD
REVIEWED & UPDATED BY	CLINICAL SENIOR LEAD NURSE
DATE REVIEWED	AUGUST 2025
NEXT REVIEW DATE	AUGUST 2026

Aim of policy:

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community and gives all our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject drugs and substances. As a result, the College performs regular random drugs tests for Years 9 to 13. Drug tests will also be requested there has been a disclosure of drug taking or misuse – *please see section on disclosure*.

This policy sets out procedures aimed to prevent misuse of controlled drugs and other substances, and to deal with any such use by pupils. We expect to work with parents on this and believe that together we can have a positive impact on our pupils' decision making. The central aim of this policy is to encourage pupils to avoid the misuse of drugs and other substances.

We have extensive health education and PSHE programmes that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse and emphasise the dangers of committing criminal offences. These lessons also cover the importance of making healthy, informed choices and provide suitable advice, support, and assistance. There is an ethical dimension that emphasises the importance of complying with the law.

Our programmes extend across the pastoral and academic curricula, involving Flow, PSHE, Science and Drama lessons. We also hold assemblies on the topic, receive talks from the police, and make use of workshops, roadshows, and reformed addicts to highlight the serious risks from drug misuse.

Scope of the Policy

The policy applies when a pupil is:

- In or at the College
- Representing the College
- Travelling to or from the College
- On College organised trips
- In any circumstances where pupil behaviour may affect the health, safety, or wellbeing of others in the College or public
- In situations that may bring the College into disrepute

Definitions

Biological Sample - A sample of urine provided by a pupil in accordance with this policy.

Misuse - The unauthorised taking/consumption of drugs or substances which could cause harm and/or is in breach of College rules and/or the law.

Drugs and Substances - Include controlled drugs, psychoactive substances (legal highs), substances intended to resemble drugs, drug paraphernalia, legal drugs from shops or online, performance-enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue, and prescription medications shared between pupils.

Drug Classification Table

Drug	Classification	Nicknames/Street names
Methamphetamine (Meth)	A	Chalk, Crank, Crystal, Fire, Glass, Go Fast, Ice, Speed, Tina
Cocaine	A	Blow, Bump, C, Charlie, Coca, Coke, Flake, Rock, Snow, Toot
Crack Cocaine	A	
MDMA (Ecstasy or Molly)	A	Adam, Beans, Clarity, E, Hug, Love Drug, X, XTC
Heroin	A	Boy, brown, china white, dragon, gear, H, horse, junk, skag
LSD	A	Acid, blotter, drop, flash, hawk, L, stars, tab, trips
Magic Mushrooms	A	
Opioids	A or B (Misuse of Drugs Act)	Morphine, Diamorphine
Cannabis	B	Marijuana, Grass, Herb, Mary Jane, Pot, Reefer, Skunk, Weed
Ketamine	B	Green, K, Special K, Super K, Vitamin K, Donkey Dust
Speed	B	Whizz, Sulph, Paste, billy, Base, amphetamine Sulphate, amphetamine
Synthetic Cannabinoids	B (Psychoactive Substances Act)	Spice, Mary Joy, Blue Cheese, Black Mamba, Amsterdam Gold
Nitrous Oxide	C (Psychoactive Substances Act)	Laughing Gas, hippy crack, nos
Anabolic Steroids	C	Juice, Roids
Tranquilisers	C	Xanax, Benzodiazepines, Valium, Downers, Eggs, Vallies, Rugby Balls

Random Testing Procedure

Random testing will take place throughout the year. On a chosen day each week, a pupil will be selected at random. These pupils will then have to go to the Medical Centre at 10.45 to give a urine sample. The procedure will be carried out in conjunction with the relevant Housemaster/Mistress, Assistant Housemaster/Mistress or Matron and a member of the medical staff. A standard email will be sent to notify parents/guardian that their child has been selected at random to undergo the test and should give consent for this to happen. *Please see section on Drug Testing Procedures.*

Disclosure

- Disclosure is when a pupil tells someone about drug-taking or possession so the College can act to support them.
- Disclosure can relate to oneself or another person but must be made with concern for welfare.
- Any staff member suspecting misuse will refer the matter to the Senior Deputy Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- If the pupil makes an independent disclosure (i.e., before an investigation begins), the matter is handled in a non-disciplinary way.
- If the pupil has committed a serious offence or brought the College into disrepute, they may be sent home temporarily regardless of disclosure.
- Disclosure can occur at any time, including during an investigation or search.

Following a Disclosure

A disclosure will be recorded in writing by the Senior Deputy Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral) and a 13-panel urine drug test will be requested. Whether the results are negative or positive, the following steps apply:

- Statement collected from pupil and parents contacted
- Pastoral and School Nurse support w referral to drug counselling/support if applicable
- Regular follow-up drug testing using the 13-panel urine drug test.

Pupils will be supported through treatment plans with adequate time for interventions to take effect and a clearance time of up to 30 days may be considered for THC.

Once the appropriate support has been put in place and time has been given for that support to take effect, if further tests come back as non-negative or positive, the Sanctions Policy will be used. The College will exercise its best endeavours to preserve confidentiality for pupils who disclose or who test positive. The information will be shared on a need-to-know basis.

Search Procedures

1. The College may search pupils, possessions, and rooms if there are reasonable grounds.
2. Consent will be sought if the pupil is deemed Gillick competent (Fraser guidelines).
3. If under the influence and not competent, the search will be delayed until they are fit.
4. If a pupil refuses to consent, the school may proceed under powers granted in the DfE's Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools (2022).
5. Searches must be carried out by two adults in a confidential, respectful manner.

Investigations

1. An investigation will be initiated if there are reasonable grounds for suspicion.
2. If disclosure occurs after an investigation begins, it may not provide immunity from sanctions.
3. Pupils may request the presence of a friend or trusted adult (provided they are available without delay).
4. A pupil may be asked to provide a biological sample to:
5. Deter breaches

6. Identify users
7. Clear those wrongly suspected

Consent & Testing Procedures

Whether a random or requested drug test, consent from the parents and pupils will be obtained prior to the drug test. Refusal to consent may be treated as a disciplinary matter, and inferences may be drawn from the refusal. The sampling will be confidentially carried out at the School Medical Centre, in the presence of the pupil's Housemaster/Mistress or Matron. At all times care will be taken to respect the pupil's privacy and human rights.

The School Nurse will explain the test procedure, check to see if the pupil has taken any over the counter or illegal substances that may affect the outcome of the results, and ensure the pupil understands the process. When the School Nurse is confident the pupil has full understanding, a consent form to provide a urine sample will be filled in by the School Nurse and signed by the pupil. This form will later note the outcome of the result and be kept in the pupil's file. The result will then be emailed to the Deputy Head.

The pupil will be asked to privately provide the urine sample. A urine sample will be collected by the School Nurse and tested using the ALLTEST Multi Drug 13-Panel Rapid Test Cup, supplied by UK Drug Testing. Pupils will be asked to turn out their pockets before giving the sample and will be required to follow the instructions precisely.

Care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the sample provided is genuine and uncontaminated. The temperature strip built into the cup will indicate if the sample is at the correct body temperature.

If a urine test returns a non-negative result (i.e. indicates the possible presence of a drug), the Deputy Head will be informed and may request a second phase of testing to be initiated. This is known as the confirmation laboratory testing phase. The same urine sample will be used and decanted into the UKAD accepted lab test cup. The sample will be securely packaged, and sent to a UKAD-accredited laboratory, such as Matrix Diagnostics UK, for in-depth analysis. This laboratory testing uses advanced techniques (such as GC-MS or LC-MS/MS) to precisely identify and quantify the presence of specific substances, providing legally defensible results. The confirmation phase ensures that any preliminary findings from the rapid screening test are accurate and reliable before any disciplinary action or follow-up support is considered.

In all cases, the procedures recommended by the test manufacturer will be followed. Once the investigation is complete and the sample is no longer required, it will be securely destroyed. If the test is positive, the School may choose to liaise with the local Community Support Officer.

ALLTEST 13 panel cup urine drug testing kit screens urine for the following 13 drugs:

- Cannabis. 50ng/ml
- Cocaine 300ng/ml
- Opiates 300ng/ml
- Amphetamine 1000ng/ml
- Ecstasy. 1000ng/ml
- Ketamine 1000ng/ml
- Methamphetamine. 1000ng/ml
- Methadone 300ng/ml
- Barbiturates. 300ng/ml
- Buprenorphine 10ng/ml
- Benzodiazepines. 300ng/ml
- Tri-Cyclic Antidepressants. 300ng/ml
- PCP (phencyclidine) 25ng/ml

Sanctions

Misuse/Possession of Drugs	Class A Drugs	Class B/C Drugs
First Offence	A pupil will be required to leave the College	A period of suspension followed by counselling and by regular testing
Second Offence	N/A	A pupil will be required to leave the College
Drug Dealing or supplying of any sort		A pupil will be required to leave the College, and the police will be notified

References

Department for Education (2022). Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for Schools. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/searching-screening-and-confiscation>

UK Government (1971). Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Available at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1971/38/contents>

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) (2023). Drug misuse prevention: targeted interventions. Available at: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng64>

UK Drug Testing. ALLTEST Multi Drug 13 Panel Test Cup. Available at: <https://www.ukdrugtesting.co.uk>
Gillick competence and Fraser guidelines. NSPCC Learning. Available at: <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/child-protection-system/gillick-competence-fraser-guidelines>

Matrix Diagnostics UK. Drug and alcohol testing laboratory services. Available at: <https://www.matrixdiagnostics.co.uk/>