



## **DRUG POLICY**

### **1. Aims**

We believe that it is the College's responsibility to help reduce the harm from drugs and to play a role in drug misuse and/or prevention. This policy emphasises the College's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and its clear view on handling the problem of drug use in schools. This policy is part of our commitment to and concern for the health and well-being of the whole College community. Counselling is always available within College for anyone involved in experimenting with drugs or worried on behalf of themselves or their friends. This policy should also be read in conjunction with the College's PSHE policy, health and safety and medicines policies, discipline/alcohol policy and discipline/smoking policy. If a pupil's safety is considered to be under threat the Designated Person will evoke the Safeguarding procedures.

### **2. A Definition of Drugs**

Drugs are substances that alter the mind or the body. This policy is concerned with legal drugs such as alcohol, tobacco and solvents, over the counter and prescribed drugs such as tranquilisers and painkillers, and illegal drugs such as ecstasy, LSD, cannabis, crack/cocaine and heroin, and other illicit drugs young people may use, such as 'poppers'. Illicit drugs which have no legal classification but for which there can be no possible justification for use or presence in College will be treated by the College in the same way as serious alcohol abuse.

### **3. Drug Education and Drug Prevention**

Objectives: The College provides drug education within the PSHE curriculum in the FY and for older pupils through discussions and lectures. We educate pupils to understand that the use of illegal drugs is, or may be, a criminal offence; that it will harm their health; that it may damage their opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live. We aim to provide all pupils with up to date, accurate knowledge, and attitudes and skills to be able to make informed decisions about drugs. Drug education also forms part of other curriculum subjects. We respond to pupils' questions and to opportunities to discuss issues concerning drugs as they arise. We believe that a positive school ethos helps pupils to feel valued and part of the College community and in so doing helps to foster positive self-images which may help pupils cope better in situations involving drug use.

### **4. Statement on the Use of Drugs in Malvern College**

This policy applies at all times to the College premises, College visits, trips, fieldwork, College Tours, or other occasions when the College, as opposed to parents, is responsible for pupils. It is forbidden to buy, sell, possess, deal in and/or use the drugs covered by this policy in a College context, with the exception of medicines for the sole use of particular individuals with the agreement of Housemasters/mistresses (or Assistants) and the Medical Centre, and alcohol in the Sixth Form Centre or at other times specifically sanctioned by the Headmaster or his nominee under strict regulation. Any breach of these rules will result in punishment including permanent exclusion.

## **5. Confidentiality**

The welfare of young people, in the general sense, will always be central to our policy and practice. Information about a pupil in relation to drugs will be treated in the same way as other sensitive information. The Headmaster will be informed and help sought, if appropriate and, where possible, in discussion with the pupil involved. Confidentiality will be maintained beyond certain key people whom it is necessary to involve, which may include the Housemaster/mistress, Headmaster and Deputy Head.

## **6. Parental Involvement**

Parents will be informed of the drug education curriculum. Parents will have access to this policy when their child enters the College. Parents will be contacted if their child is found breaking the rules on drugs.

## **7. Responding to Drug-Related Incidents**

The Headmaster takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation and for liaison with the Chairman of the Council (or his nominee), parents and appropriate outside agencies, including the Police. The policy is placed before the Management Board annually for comment. The Deputy Head, Dr Robin Lister, is the Drug Education/Substance Co-ordinator (01684 581504).

## **8. Sanctions to be Applied to Smoking Incidents**

Cigarette smoking is not allowed since it is a danger to health. Punishments will be on a graduated scale including a formal letter to parents, gating and possible rustication. Smoking within College buildings will normally involve a movement of two points up the scale:

- i. Gating and letter to parents
- ii. Gating, second letter to parents and sin bin
- iii. Rustication

Help and guidance is available at all times in the Medical Centre for any pupil concerned with smoking. Persistent and wilful breaking of the College's rules on smoking may result in permanent exclusion.

## **9. Sanctions to be Applied to Incidents Involving Alcohol**

The drinking of alcohol is not allowed, except under supervision in the Sixth Form Centre, at times authorised and approved by the Housemaster/Housemistress and the Headmaster, and in other contexts or on other occasions with prior permission of the Headmaster. Any medical emergencies arising from the abuse of alcohol will be dealt with by contacting the College Medical Centre. The staff there will contact the doctor/ambulance if necessary.

### **1. Purchasing and/or consuming alcohol:**

- (i) Gating(s), sin bin(s), a letter to parents and where appropriate banning from the Sixth Form Centre

### **2. Any pupil requiring medical supervision following drinking alcohol:**

- (i) Rustication for three or more days

## 10. Principles to be Applied in Situations Involving Illegal or Illicit Drugs

In all situations involving illegal or illicit drugs the following principles apply:

- Any medical emergencies will be dealt with by contacting the College Medical Centre. The staff there will contact the doctor/ambulance as necessary. Guidelines are issued for staff.
- The rules of the College clearly state that anyone found dealing in illegal drugs will be permanently excluded and anyone procuring illegal drugs, in the possession of illegal drugs or using illegal drugs must expect to be permanently excluded. If an exclusion is considered then the procedure for this is put into action by the Headmaster.
- The College will consider each incident individually, and there will always be careful consideration before the response is determined.
- Parents will be informed of an incident as soon as possible and kept informed of developments throughout any investigation.
- Drug testing can be helpful in that negative results provide reassurance for all while positive results alert both College and parents to an urgent problem which needs to be addressed.
- Care will be taken to explain to a pupil that there is no presumption of guilt and that he/she is invited to clear him/herself by undergoing a test.
- Drug testing will be used when in the opinion of the senior member of staff investigating an incident/set of circumstances it is likely that a pupil will have used drugs. When the College wishes to search a pupil, his/her belongings and/or room, such actions will always be taken with care and in accordance with the College's policy related to searches.
- A failure to submit to a drugs test in suspicious circumstances will legitimately lead to inferences being drawn as to why a pupil refuses to submit to such a test.
- Support agencies including the Police will be involved if appropriate.
- All incidents are written down and the record kept in the Deputy Head's office, as far as possible, as confidential items.
- In all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling during the investigation will be actively considered.
- Illegal drugs will always be stored/disposed of safely.
- The Headmaster will take responsibility for liaison with the media, where required.

Compliance/Reference: Drugs, Guidance in Schools, DfES 2004.

**See below for website help:**

ADFAM

[www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

Information to families of drug and alcohol users

Drug Concern

0845 1203745

Helpline for parents and carers concerned about their child's drug use

FRANK

[www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

The National Drugs Awareness Campaign

Parentline Plus

[www.parentlineplus.org.uk](http://www.parentlineplus.org.uk)

Support and information to anyone parenting a child

Health Development Agency

[www.lifebytes.org.uk](http://www.lifebytes.org.uk)

Health Information for Young People

Pupil Line

[www.pupilline.net](http://www.pupilline.net)

Information and advice for all issues affecting school pupils

Think About Drink

[www.wrecked.co.uk](http://www.wrecked.co.uk)

Informative site about alcohol, aimed at young people

Addaction

[www.addaction.co.uk](http://www.addaction.co.uk)

Information and advice about drug and alcohol addiction

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