



Drugs Policy

Refer to the shaded box below regarding sanctions relating to this policy

Curriculum

Drugs education forms an integral part of the RSHE programme offered to each student at Collingham College. It is also addressed through relevant aspects of the Science curriculum and is a whole school issue involving all staff.

The Drugs Education programme aims to encourage students to be aware of external pressures and look at strategies enabling the individual to take responsibility for his/her own decisions thereby reflecting the importance of self-esteem. Students will learn an understanding of the effect and nature of drugs and their possible effects on the user linked to an understanding of the law in relation to drugs and drug taking.

The outline of the dangers of drug involvement will embrace:

- The physical dangers involved in consuming certain substances
- The legal dangers of committing what amounts to criminal acts
- The social dangers of involvement with the criminal drug fraternity

Definition of drugs

References here to drugs and substances includes controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, psychoactive substances or substances intended to resemble drugs, or 'legal' drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, solvents and other substances or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.

Pastoral Approach

Factors that will be considered are:

- The age of the student concerned
- Whether incidents occurred inside or outside Collingham College
- The nature of the drug
- Whether the student involved is using or dealing in illegal substances

Where a student is suspected of being involved in the use / abuse of substances, or is associating with others who might bring him/her into contact with illegal drugs, the Head of GCSE, the Deputy Principal and the Principal will discuss the nature of the concerns.

The Principal or Head of GCSE will subsequently make immediate contact with the student's parents to make them aware of the causes for concern. Parents will be reminded of the college's policy on drugs. Where appropriate, the Principal or Head of GCSE will contact the police and will be likely to insist on invoking a drugs test as a condition of remaining at the college.

A student who raises concerns about their own drug taking to a member of staff will not be subject to disciplinary action. Likewise any concerns brought forward by a parent on behalf of their son or daughter will also be dealt with in this manner. Any student who comes forward with a drug problem to a member of staff will be offered support in working to reform his or her lifestyle; this will involve agreeing to take part in an individualised drugs testing programme. This also applies if the request for help follows disclosure by his or her parent. However, where there is evidence that a student in these

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circumstances is continuing to take drugs or that they have brought drugs onto the premises, disciplinary sanctions will be considered.

At all times, reference will be made to relevant guidance related to the management of drug-related incidents in schools.

The Principal or Deputy Principal should be informed immediately of any drugs-related matters. Individual staff must pass on concerns as outlined above and NOT attempt to deal with incidents on their own.

Personal Searches

Students' bags may be searched by members of staff at any time during the school day and students may also be asked to remove all items from the pockets of their clothing. Two adults will always be present during any searching of students' bags or examination of the contents of their pockets.

The law permits college staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug.

In taking temporary possession, the college will ensure that a second adult witness is present. The substance will be stored and disposed of in a responsible manner.

Drug testing

As detailed in the College Handbook, the Principal may require any student to submit to a drugs test either on a random basis or where there is suspicion of involvement with drugs. Parents will be informed of the need for the test which will need to be carried out within 72 hours of notification. Where a student refuses to submit to testing, the college will regard the refusal as a disciplinary offence; in these circumstances, the college may view the refusal in the same way as a positive result. A student who has consented to drugs testing will visit a designated London clinic where they must show passport identification. The student may be accompanied by a parent. The test will be paid for by the college. Depending on individual circumstances, the college will usually request either hair or urine to be tested.

Test results can take up to seven days to be reported to Collingham. The student and parents will be informed as soon as they are available. Where the test results are negative or a urine sample shows evidence of dilution, the student may continue at Collingham as before, but may expect to be tested again at a later date if suspicion of involvement in drugs continues.

Suspicion of misuse may arise from the following indicators: involvement in a drugs incident; physical signs; other signs or evidence, such as finding certain items of equipment associated with drug use; information received outside the circumstances of a student/parent disclosure; other specific circumstances giving rise to suspicion, such as erratic behaviour.

Sanctions

Relevant legislation and guidelines issued will be considered. **The Principal in consultation with the Board of Directors of Collingham College reserves the right to recommend the expulsion of any student involved in drug-related activities. The bringing of any illegal substance onto college grounds, premises or on a school activity will always render the offender liable to expulsion.**

In coming to a decision the Board of Directors together with the Principal will always consider:

- The welfare of other members of the college community
- The welfare of the student in question
- In making a recommendation to the Board of Directors, the Principal will consult with the appropriate members of staff, in particular, members of the Senior Leadership Team.

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Availability

- This Policy is made available to parents, staff and students in the following ways: via the school website, within the Parent Policies Folder in the reception area, and on request a copy may be obtained from the School Office.

Related Policies

- Behaviour Policy
- College Handbook
- Exclusion Policy
- First Aid Policy
- SMSC and PSHE Policy and associated Schemes of Work

Monitoring and Review:

- This policy will be subject to continuous monitoring, refinement and audit by the Principal.
- The Board of Directors undertake a formal review of this policy for the purpose of monitoring and of the efficiency with which the related duties have been discharged, by no later than two years from the date shown below, or earlier if significant changes to the systems and arrangements take place, or if legislation, regulatory requirements or best practice guidelines so require.

Signed: James Alder
Principal

Robert Marsden and Edward Browne
Board of Directors

Date: April 2024

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