



Drugs Policy

CHARTERHOUSE



OVERVIEW STATEMENT

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 deal with those matters in more detail.

The Charterhouse Drugs Policy seeks by education and deterrence to prevent misuse of drugs by its pupils. 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)*

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, over and above the scheduled policy review cycle. The School also reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur.

EDUCATION

Education on harmful substances is an important part of the School's PSHE curriculum. There is regular specific training for pastoral staff as well as wider staff training on the subject. Pupils have talks by both House and year group. When talks take place in House, pupils have the opportunity to ask questions without the presence of beaks (teachers) in order to encourage as much information exchange as possible. Tutors and posters then reinforce key messages. In addition, there are talks for parents with the opportunity for parents to engage with senior pastoral staff, School policy and the specialist speaker.



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;
- 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 Headmaster (Pastoral).

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 will be treated as if the test had been performed and had proved positive.

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. (Note that the School Rule reads: "You may be required to leave the School if you are involved in drug abuse in any way.") However, at the sole discretion of the Headmaster, they may be allowed to re-enter the School where he is satisfied that there are relevant mitigating circumstances, and where pupils agree to submit to a regime of frequent mandatory testing for the remainder of their career in the School. They will also be offered appropriate counselling.



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.

Where drug misuse occurs in other situations, the School's response will have regard to the School rule which states 'Conduct outside School term time and off School Premises may be deemed to be a breach of School Rules where that conduct has a detrimental impact on the School, its reputation or the School community'.)

With regard to disciplinary consequences, account will be taken of whether the pupil has voluntarily sought help from the Hunt Health 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.

Mandatory testing following drugs offences as detailed above:

In cases where a pupil remains at the School following a drugs offence, 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.