



King's College

The British School of Madrid

Soto de Viñuelas

Drugs Education and Banned Substances Policy

King's College is committed to a policy of providing a comprehensive programme of drugs education whilst being firmly opposed to the misuse, or the illegal supply, of drugs including alcohol. The School is committed to the welfare, health and safety of its pupils and will take strong action to safeguard their well-being.

The School seeks to emphasise at all times the importance it attaches to establishing a partnership between parents and staff. Nowhere is this more important than in the area of drugs education. Effective communication and co-operation are seen as essential to the successful implementation of this policy.

The Aims of the College's Drugs Education Policy are:

- To increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
- To help pupils develop the moral courage to reject peer pressure, which may lead to experimentation with illegal substances
- To enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing skills of handling social situations
- To provide accurate information about substances
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- To refer pupils, if necessary, to outside agencies who can offer assistance and support with drug-related issues

These aims are to be achieved through the curriculum, mainly within the programme of PSHE. This may include presentations given by outside agencies such as the Police and local advisory bodies. The drugs education programme will include factual information on substances ranging from illegal drugs to tobacco and alcohol. Possible physical and psychological effects will be included, as will discussions of social situations in which drugs might be offered. The context within which discussions take place will not be value-free: they will be conducted on the premise that involvement will be discouraged. The delivery of the drugs education programme will be evaluated annually by the College's Leadership Group.

Misuse of Drugs Policy

King's College is committed to ensuring that it is a healthy school, free from the misuse of drugs and other harmful substances. Illegal drugs should never be in school.

'Supply' includes retailing drugs on the premises, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of another pupil of the school, introducing fellow pupils to a drug dealer, and another instance of procuring legal or illegal drugs for him/herself or other pupils. 'Supply' includes supplying for money or free-of-charge.

The School Rules, to which parents agree in writing that their children will adhere, include the statement that: "Any pupil using, found to be in possession of, or supplying drugs should expect to be permanently excluded." It is the school's policy that the rule is rigorously enforced.

Guidance to Staff

All staff must be familiar with the school's policy. The threat posed by drugs to users, pupils who are not involved and the community as a whole makes it imperative that staff maintain a look-out for signs of drug-taking. Warning signs can take the form of:

- changes in attendance
- decline in performance in school work
- unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability
- reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups
- excessive spending or borrowing of money
- stealing money or goods
- excessive tiredness without obvious cause
- no interest in physical appearance
- lack of appetite

In the event of drug use being suspected, it is vital that the pupil is not pre-judged and that the procedures followed are fair, unbiased and impartial. The following guidelines are proposed:

a. When illegal drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises, a member of staff should take temporary possession of the suspected substance. This should be placed in a suitable, sealed container in the presence of a witness - whenever possible the Headmaster. It is not permissible for staff to try to analyse or to taste an unidentified substance.

b. On suspicion, searches of a pupil's locker, or bedroom in the case of a boarder, may be made. Pupils may also be asked to hand over substances voluntarily, for example by turning out their pockets or bag. The searching of pupils by staff is not permitted. If a pupil refuses to turn out his pockets etc, the Deputy Head or Headmaster may exercise their right to call in the police. Such searches should always be conducted in the presence of a witness.

c. Witnesses and suspects will be interviewed in the presence of an adult 'friend' - e.g. a Form Tutor or Head of Year or Houseparent. The suspect and witnesses will be encouraged to give a written account which will be signed and dated. Parents of suspects will be notified at the earliest opportunity.

If a suspect has admitted, or is believed to have carried out a serious breach of School Rules which could result in expulsion, (s)he will be segregated and parents will be invited to attend without delay.

Conclusion

Following the investigation, a pupil may be temporarily excluded pending the announcement of a decision, or permanently excluded. The Deputy Head or Headmaster will take responsibility for all communications concerning the incident. It is vital that no unguarded comments are made, in the interests of both the pupils involved and the School.

Conscience Clause

Pupils may discuss their individual worries over drug use with any member of staff within the College. They may also refer themselves to the Nurse and to the College's Counsellor for individual guidance, without the fear of sanctions or adverse reports.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol Awareness is an important dimension of Drugs Education within the school.

The School Rules state that:

“No pupil may supply, be in possession of, or make use of any of the following: Alcohol, tobacco or other mood-altering drug”.

Education forms a large part of King’s College Alcohol Policy and therefore PSHE and Biology lessons contribute a large part of the information on offer. As well as informing the pupils of the dangers of alcohol, the College also recognises the importance of educating its pupils in the sensible consumption and appreciation of alcohol within a social context.

Alcohol should not be consumed by any pupil within the boundaries of, or whilst representing King’s College. Very occasionally, boarding pupils over the age of 18 may be given permission to consume a very limited amount of wine or beer at a College organised social function. Indeed, it is the belief of the College that our eldest pupils should learn that the moderate consumption of alcohol has its place in our society when accompanied by food and conversation.

Should a pupil abuse alcohol when under the control of the College then the following sanctions may be applied:

- Gating (for boarders)
- Discussions with parents
- Report on file
- Referral to Headmaster/Deputy Head
- College punishments such as detentions after school or on a Saturday
- Temporary or Permanent exclusion

Pupils may discuss their individual worries over drug use with any member of staff within the College. They may also refer themselves to the Nurse and to the College’s Counsellor for individual guidance, without the fear of sanctions or adverse reports.

Tobacco Policy

King’s College is committed to educating pupils about the dangers of smoking and, in compliance with governmental legislation, smoking is banned across the entire campus. See separate Non-Smoking policy. Pupils must not smoke while in the school’s care e.g. on trips, or in circumstances where they are identified as part of the school community e.g. on the way to or from school.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be exercised:

- Referral to Year Head, Head of Boarding and/or other senior member of staff
- Correspondence home to parents and report on file
- Gating for boarding pupils
- A College punishment

Whilst each individual case will be dealt with on its own circumstances with the aim of educating and encouraging the individual to stop smoking, the following sanctions' tariff provides a guideline as to the handling of tobacco abuse incidents:

- For a first offence, a correspondence home and a formal sanction will be applied, such as an after school detention
- For a second offence, an interview with the Head of Secondary will take place, who will then contact parents. A Saturday detention may well be enforced (alongside a gating for boarders)
- For a third offence within a calendar year, the pupil will be referred to the Deputy Head or Headmaster and a period of external exclusion can be expected

The College recognises that persistent offenders may have formed an addiction to smoking both in and out of school. Therefore the following procedures may also be applied:

- Referral to the Nurse for support and enrolment on a smoking cessation course
- Discussion of strategies to help give up
- Parental involvement, where appropriate

If an individual is found to have sold tobacco to other pupils, then this individual may face temporary exclusion.

Monitoring the policy

This will be undertaken by the Headmaster, Deputy Head and Head of Secondary. The policy will be reviewed annually.

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