

DRUGS POLICY

This policy has been written for all three sections of the School

Rationale

In line with the School's Mission Statement, we aim to help students develop their gifts and talents: spiritual and social; intellectual and emotional; aesthetic and physical through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which is responsive to, and supportive of, their needs and aspirations, fosters intellectual curiosity and academic achievement, and motivates them to grow to their full potential. Our Mission Statement is distilled into our Vision Statement, and our aim is to develop our children, pupils and students so that they have "Strength of Mind, Strength of Values, Strength of Purpose".

Terminology

In this policy, the term 'drugs' refers to controlled drugs and substances, illegal drugs and substances, including but not limited to cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, LSD or amphetamines or substances intended to resemble drugs. In the appropriate context it also refers to anabolic steroids, legal drugs obtainable on or off prescription, and/or all other substances that, when abused, may damage the health, safety and welfare of a student, including but not limited to solvents, alcohol and tobacco. However, the School has separate policies with regard to solvents, alcohol and tobacco and they are not, therefore, the main focus of this policy. Involvement with drugs includes the possession, use, supplying and dealing with drugs or the paraphernalia of drugs.

The drugs policy at Ratcliffe College reflects the aims of the School's Mission Statement, in that it seeks to educate young people and to nurture their God-given talents and potential so that each one may become a confident, responsible and useful member of society. It also seeks to send a clear moral message to students that drugs are dangerous and involvement with drugs is wrong.

The School considers that the use of drugs (other than those administered under the care of our Medical Department) is likely to undermine a student's health, safety, independence, opportunities and respect for the law. The use of drugs will also damage the integrity of the school community by exposing other students to temptation and to the risk of criminal proceedings. We strongly and actively discourage the use of drugs and a drugs 'culture'.

A continuing and progressive programme of education about drugs is maintained throughout the school, both as part of the PSHCE programme and as part of the academic curriculum. The drugs education programme (see Appendix 1) also provides students with information about drugs, including their effects and dangers, and details of the law concerning drugs.

A student found to have supplied or used or been in possession of drugs whether on School site or not, may expect to be required to leave the School immediately.

Aims

- To reinforce and safeguard the health, safety and welfare of each student and of the School community
- To ensure legal compliance where it is unlawful for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs
- To provide students with accurate information about drugs and other harmful substances and to make them aware of the consequences of drugs and substance misuse
- To promote a healthy lifestyle through informed judgements
- To help develop the moral courage to reject peer group pressures which may lead to experimentation with, and thereby use of, drugs
- To actively discourage the use of drugs and to treat cases of drugs usage by students as serious misconduct which will be investigated and which, if proven, will result in serious sanctions being imposed
- To ensure that all staff, both teaching and support staff, are fully aware of the School's policy towards drugs and that they have received appropriate training and guidance to help them to implement the policy in a consistent manner

Responsibilities

Deputy Head Pastoral – draws up, implements and reviews the drugs policy, along with the Headmaster, and ensures that staff are aware of the content of the policy.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) Co-ordinator – draws up, implements and reviews the drugs education programme to respond to the needs of students and external influences.

Heads of Year and Housemaster/Housemistress – ensure that the drugs policy is appropriately known to students.

Form Tutors & Class Teachers – deliver the school's drugs education programme through the PSHCE curriculum and give feedback to the PSHCE co-ordinator about the effectiveness of the programme.

Heads of Department – ensure that, within their departments, appropriate opportunities are taken to reinforce the School's policy on drugs and to deliver the appropriate drugs education, as detailed in the drugs education programme.

Subject Teachers – deliver the appropriate drugs education in the classroom.

Medical Staff – support and advise staff and students by providing appropriate up to date information about medical issues relating to drugs.

All Staff – Drugs prevention and education are whole school issues. All staff, both teaching and support, must be aware of the School's policy and how it relates to them should they have to deal with a drugs related incident. The staff must be committed to putting into practice the aims of the School's Mission Statement.

Implementation

- All students in the School receive a progressive and age-appropriate programme of drugs education. This is delivered through the PSHCE programme and through academic subjects where appropriate. The details of the drugs education programme are contained in Appendix 1.
- The School is vigilant with regard to drugs related issues, which includes teaching and support staff being alert to warning signs of drugs or other abuse. Staff intermittently receive appropriate training to recognise evidence of drugs abuse and to deal with drugs related issues should they arise.

- If any suspicion of drugs use arises, it is reported immediately to the Headmaster who decides if further investigation is warranted. If it is confirmed that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student may have been using drugs, further investigations are conducted, which may require a student to take a drugs test should it be considered necessary, at the parents' cost.
- The School reserves the right to request testing for drugs if appropriate. If a student or his/her parent/s refuses to consent to a test, the School is able to draw inferences as may be appropriate in the circumstances and which may result in the student being required to leave the School. The details of the drugs testing procedure are contained in Appendix 2.
- The School's policy applies directly whenever the student is in the care of the School or on School premises or wearing School Uniform or associated with the School within or outside school hours, including during educational trips and visits away from the school.
- The use or dealing of drugs by a student or students will bring the good name of the School into disrepute. Therefore, the School's Drug Policy also applies beyond normal school hours and beyond the School site and seeks to protect the good name of the School. The school reserves the right to investigate any reported allegations of drug use by a student outside of School. **If upon further investigation the School finds that a student has supplied or used or been in possession of drugs, in accordance with the policy, that student may expect to be required to leave the School immediately.**

Monitoring

The policy is monitored by the Deputy Head Pastoral through liaison with the Headmaster, Head of Preparatory School and Head of Nursery who are responsible for education about keeping safe, medicines and, in Year 6, drugs education.

In the Senior School, the Deputy Head Pastoral monitors the policy through discussions with key post holders (particularly the PSHCE Co-ordinator, Heads of Year, Housemaster/Housemistress and the Medical Department), in addition to visits to tutorial time, PSHCE lessons and feedback from staff, parents and students.

Links to other policies

Pastoral Care Policy

Boarding Policy

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education Policy

Child Protection Policy

Curriculum Policy

Equal Opportunities Policy

Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Deputy Head Pastoral, the Headmaster and the Chair of Governors.

This policy was last reviewed by the Headmaster, September 2019.

Appendix 1 – Drugs Education Programme

Whole School

The School's drugs policy and education programme reflect the aims of the School's Mission Statement and are reinforced through assemblies, PSHCE, tutor time, student handbooks and through the way we live as a school community. We send a clear and consistent moral message to students that drugs are dangerous and involvement with drugs is wrong.

Nursery School

Children are taught about medicines, their safekeeping and the importance of not touching them.

Preparatory School

By the end of their years in the Preparatory School, pupils will have been taught about the effects on the human body of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs, and how these relate to their personal health. This is delivered through discrete PSHCE lessons that take place fortnightly, in different Year groups and through cross-curricular links. The current topics are:

Year 1	I am growing; Keeping the body healthy; When I am ill;
Year 2	Medicines
Year 3	Eating healthy and being active; understanding medicines are drugs
Year 4	Keeping clean and healthy; keeping fit; not all drugs are medicines
Year 5	Smoking and drinking
Year 6	Drugs education

The main specific teaching about drugs comes in Year 6, when sessions are set aside to focus on this topic. We currently use SEAL resources to teach the above topics, accompanied by internet resources and work with the Medical Department.

Senior School: Drugs education is delivered through both the PSHCE programme and through aspects of the academic curriculum, some of which are compulsory and some of which depend on subjects chosen. Much of the information currently delivered through the PSHCE sessions is by visiting speakers or the Medical Department. These sessions are then followed up by Form Tutors during subsequent PSHCE lessons.

Year 8

PSHCE: External Speakers – Effects of drug taking

Year 9

PSHCE: Effects of drugs and alcohol/harm reduction – interactive session ran by external speakers

Science: Study of different types of drugs and the impact they have on the body; study of how addictions develop and how to tell if a friend is addicted (one Science module, of 2-3 lessons, delivered to all classes).

Years 10/11

PSHCE: External speakers - The dangers of smoking, alcohol and non-prescribed drugs

GCSE PE: Study of different types of drugs used in sport, including performance enhancing drugs and their effects; study of the effects of alcohol and tobacco on the body; study of the

advantages and disadvantages of sponsorship in sport by companies involved with alcohol and tobacco.

Science: Study of the harmful effects of solvents on the lungs and neurones; study of alcohol on reaction times, behaviour, liver and brain; study of smoking tobacco on the occurrence of bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer and addiction to nicotine.

Evaluation of the use and misuse of drugs, including antibiotics, pain killers, stimulants, sedatives and the dangers of contracting HIV and hepatitis by the use of intravenous drugs (one Science module, of 2-3 lessons, delivered to both dual award and triple award Science classes).

Religious Studies: A unit is taught on crime and punishment, including moral responsibility.

Years 12/13 PSHCE: Alcohol awareness. This topic is introduced by a visiting speaker looking at the dangers of binge drinking and related discussion. Once every 2 years.

Languages: The topic is introduced by discussing smoking and alcohol, and drugs and addictions. Discussions are held about drug taking in sport; about the perceived differences between soft and hard drugs and the legalisation issues; about the effects of addiction on health, jobs and friends, as well as the links with illness (AIDS).

Sports Science: Similar topics are taught as per GCSE PE, but also including blood doping, altitude training and the use of ergogenic aids to enhance performance.

Religious Studies: A unit is taught on the link between the law and morality.

Appendix 2 – Drugs Testing Procedure

The decision to authorise a drugs test is made by the Headmaster. The test involves a urine sample being taken. Once authorisation has been given, every effort is made to contact the student's parents. However, it is important that the test is carried out within 48 hours, so there may be occasions when it is not possible to contact parents. Whether or not contact is made, the contract signed by parents prior to a student's admission provides sufficient consent for the test to take place.

The student is accompanied by a senior member of staff, of the same gender as the student, to the Medical Centre. The senior member of staff acts as Test Supervisor. The student remains under supervision until a sample has been provided. The student may also have a member of staff present to act as his/her advocate and supporter. All due care will be taken to respect the student's privacy and human rights during the collection process.

The Test Supervisor is responsible for ensuring that the samples are collected in such a way as to minimise the chance of contamination, dilution or substitution of the sample, for ensuring that sample identification is foolproof and that records and security systems are completed, and that the sample is transmitted to the laboratory.

The School uses the Regional Laboratory for Toxicology at the City Hospital NHS Trust, Birmingham, to process urine samples. The Nursing Sister on duty acts as the Collecting Officer and all samples are collected according to the guidelines from the Regional Laboratory for

Toxicology. Details of these guidelines are available to parents on request, via the Deputy Head Pastoral. All costs associated with having a drugs test will be charged to the student's parents via their School account.

Please click here to view the [searching screening and confiscation](#) guidance from the DfE, January 2018.

Updated by the Headmaster and Deputy Head Pastoral, September 2019.