



THE TOWERS

SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Ratified by:	Governors
Ownership:	Deputy Head
Next Review:	November 2019

Practice

The school rules prohibit pupils from bringing the following items on to school premises:

- tobacco or electronic smoking devices (or similar)
- alcohol (unless handed into the office immediately upon arrival for school fund raising purposes)
- aerosols or any item containing solvents
- illegal drugs.
- prescription medicines, unless accompanied by a letter from parents and surrendered into the office. (This excludes medication for Asthma).

This policy is clear that the possession, consumption, use or supply of illegal and other unauthorised drugs etc. is unacceptable within the school boundaries. The school boundaries extend beyond the school premises and perimeters to include journeys to and from school in school uniform, work experience and residential trips.

Response

If staff have concerns about the use of illegal or unauthorised substances then this will be shared with parents and pupils. Staff have the legal right to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being illegal or unauthorised. Staff can search lockers and bags if they have reasonable cause to believe illegal substances are there. Any illegal or unauthorised drugs found will be stored by the Headmistress and handed over to the Police.

Sanctions

Where pupils fail to meet our expectations, parents will be informed and a range of sanctions imposed. We will keep a record of all drug- related situations. The sanctions could include the following, however in most cases breaches of this policy will be dealt with severely.

- After School Detention
- Fixed-term exclusion

- Permanent exclusion will be imposed for dealing or sharing, inciting or encouraging others to bring substances on to the school site or a second offence of a drug related incident.

Counselling response:

The pupils' welfare is paramount and in all incidents involving drugs, referral for counselling or support will be actively considered. The school has contacts with local drugs agencies and advisers who can offer some counselling and work with pupils as part of the drugs education programme. We believe that those pupils who are misusing illegal drugs and volatile substances should be encouraged to seek help at the earliest possible stage so that they can be given appropriate support and guidance.