



Controlled Drugs Policy

Purpose

It is the policy of Cheltenham College that it should educate all pupils at the appropriate level about the nature and inherent dangers of the use of controlled drugs; that it should offer proper support to any pupil who, other than in the context of a drugs-related disciplinary investigation, admits to a drugs problem and seeks help; that it should deal firmly and fairly with any pupil found to have committed a drugs-related offence in accordance with the provisions laid out below. This policy will also encompass the use of so-called 'legal highs' and other mood altering substances where appropriate. Such substances are included in the term 'drug/drugs' for the remainder of this Policy.

Education

There is a continuing programme of education and support about drugs at all levels of the College, including lectures and discussions as part of the PSHCE curriculum. Pupils, parents and staff are regularly updated on developments in drug misuse to ensure that sensible discussions can take place and decisions can be made about the misuse of drugs.

Within the first lesson of any drug education programme it is made clear that neither staff nor pupils will discuss any personal drug use.

Support

Any pupil who, other than in the context of a drugs-related disciplinary investigation, sees a member of staff to ask for help in dealing with a drugs problem will via the Deputy Head (Pastoral) be referred to an appropriate external specialist. This will at all times be treated as a pastoral rather than a disciplinary matter. Any pupil disclosing drugs use is told that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and that the issue may need to be taken further for the pupil's safety. Any information will be recorded and treated sensitively.

Offence

It is an offence against the rules of the College to use, possess or supply controlled drugs while at the College, while away from the College campus during the school day, on an invite, on a journey to or from the College or while attending an event connected with the College, on work experience placements or on a residential or school trip, whether supervised or not. In addition it will be regarded as an offence against the rules of the College if pupils use, possess or supply controlled drugs at any time in any way which prejudices the ethos or the reputation of the College.

A member of staff with reason to suspect that a pupil is misusing drugs, must report the situation, through the pupil's Housemaster or Housemistress, to the Headmaster or Deputy Head, who will decide if further investigation or a drug test is warranted

Once the Headmaster or Deputy Head has decided that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has been using controlled drugs he or she shall be accountable for all further action. A test may be carried out in accordance with the procedure adopted by the College. The procedure is fully in accordance with the standards required to satisfy any legal challenge.

Parents consent to testing by their acceptance of the College's Terms and Conditions when their son or daughter joins the College.

Pupils, who are over or will become 16 years of age during the academic year, are required to consent to their parents being informed in the event of their being tested. Any refusal to give a sample will render the pupil liable to expulsion unless there are mitigating circumstances.

There is not an automatic sanction applied to any drug-related incident. Any response will be taken after considering all the relevant facts and information about the pupil or pupils involved and the circumstances in which any drug-related incident and the College's awareness of any such incident has come about.

There is a range of possible responses that the College may implement ranging from access to counselling to permanent exclusion. Exclusion will be used when other options have been explored or where it is demonstrated that the pupil concerned represents a significant risk to the safety or welfare of staff or pupils.

The College will consider involving the Police for serious offences or where there is a lack of co-operation from the pupil, parents or guardians.

Reviewed September 2011
Next Review Date: September 2012