



Drugs Policy

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DRUGS POLICY

Our primary concerns are for the health and well-being of our pupils and therefore we have a strong position against the taking of drugs or dealing of drugs. Please note that any pupil found to be vaping or in possession of vaping equipment may be considered to be in breach of the School's Drugs Policy.

Policy:

Drugs and substances include controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs; psychoactive substances or substances intended to resemble drugs such as synthetic drugs or new psychoactive substances; 'legal' drugs that obtained from medical professionals; performance-enhancing drugs, glue, and other substances held or supplied for the purposes of abuse. This applies also to some legal substances if they are intended for use as drugs, such as nitrous oxide and amyl nitrate.

The Headmistress reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur.

1. Pupils dealing in or supplying drugs will be permanently excluded.
2. No distinction will be made between use and possession in School and use and possession out of School. Furthermore, all pupils should expect to receive the same sanctions regardless of whether they are a day or boarding pupil.
3. On a first occasion, if a pupil is found to be in possession of or have used Class B or C drugs (e.g. cannabis) or any substance whether natural or synthetic that induces hallucinogenic or intoxicating effects, either in or out of School, by admission, use of 'Urine Tests', or other evidence regarded by the Headmistress (or in his absence the Deputy Head Pastoral) as conclusive of guilt in the balance of probabilities, the pupil would be temporarily excluded for a length of time, usually at least 48 hours, or permanently excluded.

The Headmistress may consult the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of any illegal drug, since it carries the possibility of being a criminal offence.

The pupil may be allowed to remain at Box Hill subject to:

- a. Receiving drugs education and support from the Medical Centre
- b. Signing a statement of intent and a contract in front of parents, and the Headmistress.
- c. Regular testing at parental expense
- d. Cooperation with the process.

However, circumstances may lead to permanent exclusion at this stage.

4. A second same offence would normally result in permanent exclusion.
5. If, at any time, we believe that a pupil may be at risk, he/she will be required to provide the Medical Centre with a urine sample for testing.

6. Refusal to provide a sample will be taken as an admission of guilt.
7. If a pupil supplies drugs of any sort to other pupils, or is involved with Class A drugs, he/she will automatically be permanently excluded and the Police may be informed. Pupils should be aware that if they attempt to supply a harmless substance as a drug they are still guilty in law of attempting to supply a controlled substance.
8. Testing will be random but can include targeted testing of any pupil or year group. The test will usually be taken using a urine sample and will be administered by a Collecting Officer (member of the Senior Leadership Team) and overseen as an Independent Observer by a Nurse from the School's Medical Centre in the presence of the pupil's House Parent/Head of Year (as appropriate).

Please note that the relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided they are of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives their informed consent in writing. Parents will be informed during the drugs test process; depending on the circumstances this communication from the School may happen before, during or after the drugs test.

The cost of the test will be borne by the School unless the test is positive when the cost will be the responsibility of the parent or guardian. If the result is unclear then a hair sample will be tested. This is sent away for offsite analysis. In certain circumstances, e.g. following a suspension for a drugs related incident, or based upon information received, a hair test may be requested as a first test.

9. The School may, if deemed necessary by the Headmistress and/or Governors and in consultation with Surrey Police, sanction the operation of passive drugs dogs within the School and grounds.

Box Hill School provides drugs education, through the PSHEE programme, for its pupils so as to:

- enable pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practicing decision-making skills;
- provide accurate information;
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- widen understanding about related health and social issues;
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The PSHEE programme is supported by specially invited external speakers and the Medical Centre. The School actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police and Social Care to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

Ms Hayley Robinson
Headmistress
May 2025