

## Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy – Senior School

*A copy of this policy is published in the following areas:*

*The school's website*

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Reviewed by: Emma Ellison, Deputy Head (Pastoral)

### **A. Related Truro School Policies**

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This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Searching and Confiscation Policy;
- Positive Handling Policy;
- Behaviour Policy: Rewards and Sanctions;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.
- School Rules

### **B. Introduction**

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The school's Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy concerns all potentially harmful substances such as tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vaping products, alcohol and other drugs (eg "legal highs" and illegal drugs).

This policy has three objectives:

1. to ensure that pupils are properly educated about the effects on the mind and body and the criminal implications of using and possessing different categories of drugs;
2. to make clear to all pupils and their parents the school's definition of unacceptable drugs (see below) and the school's likely disciplinary reactions to drug use by its pupils;
3. where necessary, to ensure that further medical guidance and monitoring is provided after transgressions occur.

### **C. Education about Drugs and Substance Misuse**

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#### **C1. Aims**

- Enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by educating them about potential health risks and social damage caused by drugs and substance misuse;
- Educate pupils about the legal restrictions and further school restrictions on the possession, use and misuse of drugs and substances;
- To reduce the acceptability of drugs.

## **C2. Illegal Drugs: a definition**

Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, illegal drugs are placed into one of 3 classes - A, B or C. This is broadly based on the harms they cause either to the user or to society when they are misused. These drugs are not legal to possess, produce, give away or sell. The class into which a drug is placed affects the maximum penalty for an offence involving the drug. For example, Class A drugs attract the most severe penalty, as they are considered likely to cause the most serious harm. However, they can all cause harm.

- Class A drugs include: heroin (diamorphine), cocaine (including crack), methadone, ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, and magic mushrooms.
- Class B includes: amphetamines, barbiturates, codeine, cannabis, cathinones (including mephedrone) and synthetic cannabinoids.
- Class C includes: benzodiazepines (tranquilizers), GHB/GBL, ketamine, anabolic steroids and benzylpiperazines (BZP).

## **C3. Substances Banned by Truro School**

Not all drugs are illegal, but that does not mean they are harmless. For example, some drugs called new psychoactive substances (known previously as “legal highs”) have been developed to mimic the effects of illegal drugs like cocaine and ecstasy, but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 bans all drugs that have a psychoactive effect.

There are other drugs that may be advertised as harmless but which can have negative physical side effects and/or a deleterious effect on behaviour and the ability to learn. The following section makes clear the substances that Truro School has banned.

## **C4. Definition of Truro School Banned Substances**

Truro School would like all pupils to have the best chances of developing their mind and body and, therefore, we also ban alcohol and tobacco (including vaping) products. Truro School will always forbid all chemical substances, which adversely affect pupil behaviour, damage their learning experience, encourage anti-social behaviour or bring the school into disrepute.

In particular:

- we will only permit drugs that have been medically tested; endorsed by a medical authority; e.g. drugs that can be obtained from a pharmacy or prescribed by a medical professional (doctor, nurse or pharmacist);
- we forbid pupils to possess, deal in or use illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances (including use of glue and gases), alcohol, e-cigarettes and vaping products;
- we will continue to monitor the information on development of new drugs as reported by the government and police.

Self-prescription of legal medicines by pupils deemed Gillick competent is acceptable. However, use of such medicines becomes unacceptable if it leads to over-use and psychological or physical reliance. However if such addictions are revealed to the school, pupils will be dealt with initially by the school pastoral and medical teams to help overcome the addiction. Parents will always be informed in such situations by the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

## **C5. Drugs and Substance Misuse: Education Methods and Organisation**

- Drugs education will be provided as part of our PSHEE programme. It will be delivered in the context of the school being part of a wider community and take into account local circumstances and community culture.
- Information provided will be factual and accurate, backed up with consistent advice.
- Drugs education will be delivered in a clear and honest manner that informs without encouraging drug use.
- As far as possible, the school will back up the delivery of education with pastoral support for pupils with problems or concerns.
- We will provide pupils and parents with information about the sources of help and support available at school and in the local area.
- In cases where pupils divulge information that gives cause for concern, this should be passed on to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- The school liaise with the local Police Liaison Officer for support and advice.

## **D. Drugs and Substance Misuse: Sanctions**

### **D1. Alcohol**

We aim to educate pupils in a way that allows them to make informed choices about appropriate use of alcohol. However, during the school day no pupil, either day or boarding and of whatever age may enter a public house, consume alcohol, have alcohol in his/her possession or supply alcohol. The only exception to this would be consumption of moderate amounts of alcohol with a meal at a society dinner supervised by teaching staff and authorised by the school licensee.

The school is also committed to upholding the laws regarding the consumption of alcohol by people under the age of 18. If necessary public houses and other vendors of alcohol will be contacted by the school if the law has been broken by them serving pupils alcohol.

- **Sanctions for possession, use and supplying of alcohol:** If a pupil (of whatever age) is found to have been drinking alcohol, in possession of alcohol or supplying alcohol while under the jurisdiction of the school, the matter is dealt with by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and reported to the parents on every occasion by in writing. Sanctions include Deputy Head/Head's Detention, reduction of privileges, along with "gating" for boarders; a serious incident involving alcohol will lead to exclusion from the school. For boarders with repeated episodes of alcohol consumption and/or where there is an indication that he/she cannot be trusted, a house breathalyser may be used. However, repeated offences will lead to temporary or permanent exclusion. After the first offence, we aim provide education and support from our medical team to help pupils give up if they have developed a habit.

### **D2. Tobacco and e-cigarettes**

The whole school is a "No Smoking" area. Possession, use and trading of tobacco products, e-cigarettes and vaping products in school is forbidden.

- **Sanctions for possession, use and supplying of tobacco and e-cigarettes and vaping products:** If a pupil (of whatever age) is found smoking or in possession of

tobacco/e-cigarettes/vaping products or associated paraphernalia or supplying such substances while under the jurisdiction of the school, the matter is dealt with by the Deputy Head and reported to the parents on every occasion by letter. There is a scale of increasingly serious sanctions for such pupils beginning with DeputyHead/Head's Detention, reduction of privileges, along with "gating" for boarders. Repeated offences will lead to temporary or permanent exclusion. After the first offence, we aim provide education and support from our medical team to help pupils give up if they have developed a habit.

### **D3. Illegal Drugs**

Possession, use and supply of drugs Class A, B, C and New Psychoactive substances in or out of school is strictly forbidden.

- **Sanctions for possession, use and supplying of illegal drugs:**
  - a. Any Truro School pupil proven to be supplying (selling, trading or sharing) illegal drugs (class A, B, C or New Psychoactive Substances) loses any right to membership of the school and should expect to be excluded, whether the trading takes place on school premises or not.
  - b. Any Truro School pupil possessing or using illegal drugs will be excluded, either temporary or permanent depending on the type of drug and amount of use; readmission to the school might be allowed, but only on condition that the pupil and parents all agree to a regime of random drug-testing (see below).

The school will consider any incident with drugs individually and aim to adopt an approach, which is supportive of the pupil's future, provides helpful education, complies with the law and balances the interests of the individual pupil with the interests and welfare of the rest of the school.

## **E. Detecting and Investigating Offences**

### **E1. Guidance to pupils and staff**

- Pupils should be encouraged to report immediately to a member of staff any matter(s) concerning Truro School banned substances;
- If a member of staff suspects that, a pupil may have banned substances at school or suspects a pupil has taken a banned substance, they should report the matter to the Deputy Head immediately.

### **E2. Action by the School**

1. The matter will be investigated by staff.
2. If drugs are discovered, a decision as to whether the police should subsequently be called in will be made in conjunction with the Head and parents. The decision will be affected by:
  - whether the drugs are illegal;
  - whether the drugs can be easily identified (if not – the police will be needed for forensic investigation);
  - the quantity of drugs discovered.

At all points Truro School reserves the right to inform the police if this is deemed to be necessary.

## **F. Drugs Testing**

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### **F1. Conditions for drugs testing**

Testing will only be used :

- after suspension for a drugs offence when imposed by the school as a condition for readmission;
- when a parent/pupil has specifically asked for such a test
- if the School has sufficient evidence to suspect that a pupil has taken drugs

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) notifies the pupil's parents that a test is to be conducted. The cost of testing will be borne by the parents.

The pupil will only be informed that a test is required on the day of the test appointment to help preserve the deterrence effect.

1. When the results have been received, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) will be notified immediately.
2. The Deputy Head will notify The Head, parents and Head of Year and tutor (and Boarding Housemaster/mistress) as soon as possible. The pupil will also be told the test result as soon as possible.
3. Finally, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head will send the written confirmation of the test result to the pupil's parents.
4. If the result is negative, random drugs test will continue until the school is satisfied that the pupil can be trusted to avoid future drug use.
5. If the drug test result is positive, a meeting will be held with the parents, pupil, Head (and other staff if necessary); it is most likely that the pupil will be excluded from the school.
6. Under no circumstances, will there be any reference to any tests for drugs on a pupil's permanent medical record, whether negative or positive.