TRURO SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy

A copy of this policy is published in the following areas: The school's website
Reviewed and updated: October 2026
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Created by: Deputy Head Pastoral
Reviewed by: Deputy Head Pastoral

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Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy – Senior School

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by: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Related Truro School Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Searching and Confiscation Policy;
- Restrictive Interventions, Including The Use Of Reasonable Force Policy, Positive Behaviour and Values Policy;
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy;
- School Rules.

Introduction

The School's Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy has the following objectives.

- To ensure that Truro School is in the best possible position to identify and manage any suspected drug related incidents and thus ensure Truro School is best placed to minimise the impact substance misuse could have. The safety and welfare of our pupils and staff is paramount and we aim to provide a drug free environment for all.
- The word 'drug' or 'substance' within this policy applies to a range of illegal drugs (as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) and other non-illegal substances (which we have classified as 'banned' substances) to protect the welfare and wellbeing of our pupils.
- 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
- To educate pupils on the effects and consequences of drugs on the mind and body;
- To provide opportunities for pupils to practise the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs;
- To explain the legal consequences with regard to the use and misuse of drugs;
- To enable pupils to identify sources of support and advice;
- To enable parents and staff to acquire knowledge and support on how best to identify and manage suspected drug misuse.

In this policy, the definition of a 'drug *or substance'* includes: controlled drugs *(Class A, B and C as per the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)* and *any associated drugs paraphernalia, psychoactive substances (as defined by the New Psychoactive Substance Act 2016)* or substances intended

to resemble drugs, or any "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop (unless authorisation has been given), performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, solvents and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.

This policy will be reviewed annually and in the light of any drug-related incident.

Scope of this policy

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 (or be concerned in any of this activity). 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 cocaine), ecstasy (MDMA), LSD, methadone, methamphetamine and psilocybin-containing magic mushrooms.

Class B drugs include amphetamines, barbiturates, cannabis, codeine, ketamine, GHB/GBL, methylphenidate (Ritalin), synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones (including mephedrone).

Class C drugs include benzodiazepines, anabolic steroids, benzylpiperazines (BZP), khat and nitrous oxide.

The Government may also place emerging substances under a **Temporary Class Drug Order (TCDO)** while deciding whether they should be permanently controlled.

Drugs sometimes known as “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. Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 none of these drugs are legal to produce, supply or import for human consumption - even for personal use, e.g. over the internet.

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.

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, vaping products, nicotine products and products that are THC or CBD- based.

No pupil should bring prescription or non-prescription patent medication onto site without parents making the Head of Year, Head of Boarding or Medical Centre aware in advance. Legal medication, prescription or non-prescription, will be stored and dispensed either in the Medical Centre or in boarding houses.

We will continue to monitor the information on development of new drugs as reported by the government and police.

Education and support

- 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.
- Drugs education will be provided as part of our PSHE 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.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries with their Head of Year or Tutor. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Centre staff and to the School Counsellors for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We also invite groups of parents and guardians to Information Evenings and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of pupils. We actively encourage parents/guardians and carers to contact the school if they have any concerns regarding suspected substance misuse.

Behaviour consequences

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 (or whilst on school outings, dinners and trips) no pupil, either day or boarding and of whatever age may enter a public house or other licensed

premises, consume alcohol, have alcohol in his/her possession or supply alcohol.

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 licensed premises or vendors of alcohol will be contacted by the school if the law has been broken by them serving pupils alcohol.

Behaviour consequences 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. The starting point for behaviour consequences will be a Level 4 in the Positive Behaviour and Values Policy. A serious incident involving alcohol will lead to temporary or permanent exclusion from the School. 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.

Testing for alcohol consumption: Where there is concern that a pupil may have consumed alcohol whilst under the jurisdiction of the School (including at School organised celebratory events, School trips and in boarding), the following procedure will be followed to help provide appropriate safeguarding care of pupils who may have consumed alcohol and ensure that necessary behaviour consequences are applied:

1. The member of staff wishing to carry out an alcohol breathalyser test will liaise first with a member of the Senior Leadership Team and seek approval for requesting a breath test. Any member of the Senior Leadership Team may authorise a member of staff to request a breath test from a pupil, using School breathalyser equipment.
2. If a pupil refuses to provide a sample of breath, this allows the School to draw certain inferences from that refusal.
3. A written record will be shared with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) of instances where a pupil is asked to take a test. This will include the date, time and reason for the test being requested, along with the outcome and which member of staff carried out the test. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) will keep these records to ensure that testing is being carried out fairly and proportionately.
4. Members of staff carrying out a test should ensure that another member of staff is present for the test.
5. The School is not required to inform parents before a breath test is requested, but any instance of a breath test (and its outcome, where the test has been agreed to) will be communicated to parents.

<u>Tobacco, nicotine pouches, vapes and e-cigarettes</u>

The whole school is a “No Smoking and No Vaping” area. Possession, use and trading of

tobacco products, nicotine pouches, e- cigarettes and vaping products in school is forbidden.

- **Behaviour consequences for possession, use and supplying of tobacco and e-cigarettes, nicotine pouches 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 (Pastoral) and reported to the parents on every occasion. The starting point for all offences will be Level 4. Repeated offences may lead to a Level 5 behaviour consequence, including 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.
- **Pupils found willingly in the presence of pupils who are using tabacco and e-**cigarettes, nicotine pouches or vapes will be issued with a minimum of a Level 4 consequence.

Illegal Drugs

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

a. **Behaviour consequences for possession, use and supplying of illegal drugs 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 or exchange 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 any evidence as deemed relevant by the school which might include the quantities and type of drugs.
c. In respect of any positive drug test, no distinction will be made if use is in or beyond School premises.

The School will consider any individual or multiple pupil incident in which drugs misuse, dealing, possession is suspected in order to establish the facts and 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.

Detecting and Investigating Offences

Guidance to pupils and staff

- Pupils are encouraged to report immediately to a member of staff any matter(s) concerning Truro School banned substances or any activity which they have concerns substances have or are being used, offered for sale or distributed within the School.
- If a member of staff has reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil may have banned substances (or any other substance) they feel is a safeguarding issue at School or suspects

a pupil has taken a such a substance, they should report the matter to the Deputy Head (Pastoral) immediately.

- The School will always investigate reports about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil or searching a pupil's possessions or accommodation (if a boarder) in line with its Positive Behaviour and Values Policy and Searching and Confiscation Policy. If members of staff have reasonable grounds to believe the pupil(s) is(are) under the influence of a 'substance' (because of their behaviour, physical appearance and demeanour) they could then request the pupil(s) take a Drugs Test (as per this policy and the School's behaviour and safeguarding procedures).

Action by the School

1. The matter will be investigated by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or another member of the Senior Leadership Team. Statements may be taken and interviews conducted with pupils who may have information relevant to the investigation.
2. If drugs are discovered, a decision as to whether the police should subsequently be called in will be made by the Head. 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.

As per the Positive Behaviour and Values Policy, School investigations are determined on the balance of probabilities.

If pupils or parents have concerns about the process applied in relation to investigation of, or testing of, pupils in relation to this policy they should contact the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Head.

Drugs Testing

Conditions for drugs testing

Testing will only be used:

- after temporary exclusions for a drugs offence when imposed by the school as a condition for readmission.
- when a pupil has specifically asked for such a test.
- when a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs. Reasons for suspicion would include being found in possession of drugs, a marked change of attitude to School life, persistent poor work or discipline, association with others involved with drugs, anti-social or erratic behaviour, demeanour and physical appearance, parental, staff or other

pupil concern, or anything which the Head deems to give a prima facie reason for suspicion. The Head will confer with the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and relevant Head of Section and/or Head of Year before requiring a test.

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) will make reasonable efforts to notify the pupil's parents that a test is to be conducted and the reasons for that requirement.

Where a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of drugs and refuses a test, this allows the School to draw certain inferences from that refusal.

The costs of any tests will be borne by the School. Where a result returns as positive, the cost of the test and any subsequent tests will be met by the parents. In such cases, the School reserves the right to apply the full range of behaviour consequences, regardless of whether the drug misuse took place on School premises or not.

Useful resources

The Talk to Frank website has a wide range of information about drugs, alcohol, vaping and tobacco including information about the risks and legal consequences of each.

Safer Cornwall offers drugs and alcohol support for adults and young people throughout Cornwall.

The NHS offers the following websites for help with

- Drug addiction
- Young people and vaping
- Alcohol misuse