

## CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

### PUPIL ANTI-DRUGS POLICY

1. At Christ's Hospital, the safeguarding of our pupils comes before all else. We recognise that illegal drugs are harmful to the physical and mental health of young people. As such, it is our goal to maintain a drug-free environment as part of our promotion, to the pupils, of the importance of personal responsibility, a healthy lifestyle and wise personal choices.
2. Worryingly, we live in a society where drugs are readily available and where our children are often under considerable pressure to experiment with drugs, as well as with tobacco and alcohol. The School addresses these issues in four ways:
  - Firstly, as part of our PSHE and tutorial programme, we educate pupils about the dangers associated with the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs.
  - Secondly, we attempt to instil in our pupils sufficient self-confidence to be able to say no when they find themselves under pressure to try illegal substances;
  - Thirdly, we have a sanctions system, and take additional measures, designed to deter our pupils from using tobacco, alcohol and drugs while they are enrolled at CH.
  - Fourthly, we offer help to any pupil who tells us they are struggling with drugs.
3. In summary, the School rules, and consequent sanctions, relating to illicit drug use or possession are as follows:
  - Any pupil found to be supplying any kind of drugs, or if there is clear evidence of intention to supply, whether or not payment is involved, will be expelled, and the police will be informed.
  - Any pupil who is involved in any way with Class A drugs will be expelled.
  - For a first offence, any pupil found to be in possession of or using cannabis or any other Class B or C drug (including psychoactive substances), either at School or off campus will be suspended for up to one week and placed on the Random Drug Testing List (see details below).
  - A second offence of using or being in possession of any Class B or C drug will result in expulsion.
4. Use of drug testing
  - If the School suspects that a pupil is using drugs, in School time or the holidays, he or she will be required to undergo a urine test in the School's Medical Centre. The School's contract with parents gives the School permission to test pupils when we believe there are reasonable grounds for suspicion, but parents will be informed after the test is carried out as a courtesy. Refusal by a pupil to undergo a test will be deemed an admission of guilt and will be treated in the same way as a positive test.
  - If at this point the pupil returns a positive test for a Class A drug, he/she will be expelled and the police will be informed. If the pupil returns a positive test for cannabis or other non-Class A drugs, or if there is still reason to believe that the pupil is at risk of using drugs, he or she will be placed on the Random Drug Testing List.

- If a pupil is found to have taken a prescribed drug that doesn't belong to them, this will be viewed as a positive test. It is illegal to consume someone else's prescribed drug and the police view this as a Class C offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971.
  - Once a pupil has been placed on the Random Drug Testing List, the School will carry out random tests at least once per term. A subsequent positive test will automatically result in expulsion; at this point (and within 48 hours of the last positive test) parents will be offered the opportunity for an independent test (at their cost) due to the importance of such a decision.
  - If there is concern for a pupil's welfare due to suspicions, or admission of holiday drug use, but no positive test, then the pupil will be placed on an Enhanced Testing List. This means that they will be tested more frequently than other pupils and more dialogue will occur regarding lifestyle decisions.
  - The purpose of drug testing is to deter pupils from using drugs. Experience has shown that those parents whose children have been placed on the testing programme are usually very grateful because they know that for the remainder of their child's time at CH, he or she is not using drugs. Regardless of the result of a test, a follow up appointment is made with one of the School's therapists. Therapeutic group sessions can also be offered.
5. In line with the School's commitment to minimize the risk of pupils coming into contact with illicit drugs whilst at School, the boarding houses, and the areas surrounding them, are periodically screened for the presence of such substances using trained dogs. This service is organized by the School Marshal and is normally done when most pupils are in lessons so that it is unlikely that they will encounter the dogs whilst they are working.
  6. Any drugs found on the campus will be logged and stored for safe keeping. The police will be notified and come to the School and take the drugs away to be destroyed.
  7. Performance enhancing drugs are a growing problem in society; the dangers of these are taught to the pupils in A level and IGCSE PE classes, as well as in ADP lectures and PSHE lessons.
  8. Whilst drugs are strictly prohibited in School and the sanctions for breaking the School's rules on drugs are, of necessity, serious, the School aims to help any pupil who discloses that they are at risk of drug-taking. Pupils may speak to staff in the Medical Centre who will provide support and make referrals as necessary, either to the School's counselling service or to external agencies. Disclosures made in this setting will usually be kept confidential, unless the pupil is at risk of significant harm, or represents a safeguarding risk to others, in which case staff will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
  9. Pupils who are concerned that a friend may be at risk of drug-taking should speak to a member of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Team.

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Date of last review: November 2020

Date of next review: November 2021