

CHRIST'S HOSPITAL

STUDENT ANTI-DRUGS POLICY

1. At Christ's Hospital, the safeguarding of our students 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 students, 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 five ways:
 - firstly, as part of our Learning for Life and PSHE programmes, we educate students about the dangers associated with the use and abuse of tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs;
 - secondly, we attempt to instil in our students 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 students from using tobacco, alcohol and drugs while they are enrolled at CH;
 - fourthly, we offer help to any student who tells us they are struggling with drugs;
 - fifthly, we work in partnership with parents/guardians by communicating any information received at school suggesting that a child may have become involved in drug-taking.
3. In summary, the school rules, and consequent sanctions, relating to illicit drug use or possession are as follows:
 - any student 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 student who is involved in any way with Class A drugs will be expelled;
 - for a first offence, any student 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 student is using drugs, in school time or the holidays, they will be required to undergo a test in the Medical Centre, which is carried out by means of a DSR-Plus device which detects the presence of drugs in the student's fingerprint sweat sample. The school's contract with parents gives permission to test students 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 student to undergo a test will be deemed an admission of guilt and will be treated in the same way as a positive test.
 - If the test results in a positive reading, a second test is immediately conducted, and sent to a laboratory for verification.
 - If this test returns a positive result for a Class A drug, the student will be expelled and

the police will be informed. If the test returns a 'ositive result for cannabis or other non-Class A drugs, or if there is still reason to believe that the student is at risk of using drugs, they will be placed on the school's Random Drug Testing List.

- If a student 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 student has been placed on the Random Drug Testing List, the school will carry out random tests approximately once per term. A subsequent positive test, confirmed by the second test verified by the laboratory, will automatically result in expulsion.
 - If there is concern for a student's welfare due to suspicion or admission of holiday drug use, but no positive test, then the student will be placed on an Enhanced Testing List. This means that they will be tested more frequently than other students and more dialogue will occur regarding lifestyle decisions.
 - The purpose of drug testing is to deter students from using drugs. Experience has shown that those parents whose children have been placed on the testing programme are usually 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, the young person will be asked by an appropriate person if they would like to be referred to the therapy team for emotional support. If they do not want this to happen the appropriate person will speak with the young person about other sources of emotional support at school which may be preferred. Therapeutic group sessions can also be facilitated, if appropriate.
5. In line with the school's commitment to minimize the risk of students 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 students 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 students in A level and IGCSE PE classes, as well as in ADP lectures and PSHE lessons.
 8. The performance enhancing substances 'SARMs' (selective androgen receptor modulators), which are on the World Anti-Doping Agency's list of banned substances, are associated with serious safety concerns. As such, they are prohibited at CH. Students found to be in possession of these substances at school may be suspended.
 9. 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 student who discloses that they are at risk of drug-taking. Students may speak to staff in the Medical Centre who will provide support and make referrals as necessary, either to the school's therapy service or to external agencies. Disclosures made in this setting will usually be kept confidential, unless the student is at risk of significant harm, or represents a safeguarding risk to others, in which case staff will inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
 10. Any parent or guardian who becomes concerned that their child may be involved in

drug-taking is encouraged to communicate with their child's houseparent or with the Designated Safeguarding Lead who will work with the parent or guardian to support the child in refraining from drug-taking.

11. If information is received at school that a student may have become involved in drug-taking, the school will communicate this to the student's parent/guardian and, depending on the specific detail of the information, may request that their child is placed on the drug testing list, to assist in deterring them from drug-taking.
12. Students 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: December 2023

Date of next review: December 2024