



St. Francis' College Misuse of Drugs Policy

Introduction

The 'College' refers to all the staff and pupils of the Prep department and Senior School which includes Early Years Foundation stage (EYFS), Pre-prep (Key Stage 1), Prep (Key Stage 2), and Senior School (Key Stages 3-5).

College Policy on Drug Misuse

A pupil will be liable to temporary or permanent exclusion from the College for any serious breach of this rule.

Pupils are forbidden to be under the influence of, or to have in their possession while under the jurisdiction of the College (or while travelling to and from the College in uniform or on College transport) any dangerous or classified drug or steroid (unless prescribed and notified to the College Health Centre).

- The College believes that the use or supply of dangerous or classified drugs or harmful substances is wrong.
- The College provides a planned programme of Personal, Social Health Economic Education including problems connected with drug and solvent misuse. (This programme contains factual information concerning the health issues and includes the opportunity to discuss aspects connected with drug and solvent misuse.)
- The College sees that it is part of its professional responsibility to provide support and counselling for any pupils who have a problem with drug or solvent misuse. At the same time, it will take any disciplinary or other appropriate action to maintain the wellbeing of the community.
- The possession and use of any illegal substance at the College by pupils is not permitted.
- When pupils are found to be using banned substances sanctions, would normally apply.

Sanctions for Drug Misuse

- Any pupil misusing drugs either at College or out of College (where it impacts on their behaviour) risks permanent exclusion. With regard to drug testing in the College's Terms and Conditions (to which every parent agrees when joining the College) see 9. (k).
- In support of this (and in some cases to dispel unfounded suspicion) the College operates a non-random drug testing policy. We do not at present, and have no current intention of running a random testing policy.
- If it is necessary to take any samples this will be carried out in confidence, by medical personnel.
- Pupil and parental permissions are always sought in such matters but a refusal to provide a sample may carry with it a suggestion of guilt. In that situation, the Headmistress would take a view based on the evidence leading to the suspicion, and the evidence gathered.
- Where a sample is found to be negative, the College will fund the test.
- When a sample is found to be positive, the parents will bear the cost and any cost of any further required tests.

NB: When the Headmistress concludes (either through evidence or admission) that a pupil has supplied or sold illegal substances to other pupils within or without College, that pupil will be permanently excluded. The College operates a 'zero tolerance policy' in this respect.

Reviewed By	B Goulding
Effective From	March 2021
Next Review Due	March 2022