



POLICY STATEMENT

Policy	Drugs and Alcohol Policy
Date Written	15 th April 2018
Written by	G Sutton
Date of Approval	16 th April 2018
Next major review date	April 2019
Location and disseminations	A copy of the policy can be found on the college website.

St George's College is committed to the best safeguarding and care of its students. We believe that the misuse of alcohol or the use of drugs, in whatever form other than for treatment of specific medical issues, is detrimental to the wellbeing of our students and all those in our community and the first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the college's community and meeting the pastoral needs of pupils.

We will seek to educate all students regarding the dangers and effects of alcohol, drugs and a drug-taking culture in order to allow informed choices and to recognise such behaviour and dangers in others.

At St George's College, the use of illegal and other unauthorised drugs is not acceptable at any time and in any place.

The terms of this policy and the responses of the college to any student found to be in breach of this policy remain relevant whether the student is on college premises, or outside the college boundaries and where their actions might damage the name and reputation of the St George's College.

Drugs Education

We regard drugs education as a whole-college issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially PSHE sessions. We run weekly PSHE sessions and a number of which throughout the year look at the nature of Drugs and educating young people about the choices they have. We acknowledge we must help to equip pupils to handle risky situations before they actually meet them.

We recognise that learning is most effective when it addresses the development of knowledge, attitudes and skills together and when teaching and learning are participative and active. We use a variety of teaching styles that are characterised by active learning.

We find out what the children know already, we pose dilemmas, and we get the children to discuss choices. Wherever possible the information we give is visually reinforced. We use drama, role-play or I.C.T. to demonstrate various strategies and scenarios. In short, we seek to engage our pupils. We give them the opportunity to talk to groups or to the whole class. We encourage them to listen to the views of others and we ask them to explore why drugs are such a problem for society.

We aim to teach all pupils about drugs, however different their attainment levels and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that pupils with special educational needs may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse and that some pupils may have drug-abusing parents.

Drugs at College

When pupils need to take prescribed medication during college hours their parents must communicate this with the nurses at Buckswood Health Service. It is then stored securely and administered at the correct times. Records will be kept of all medication given.

Hazardous chemicals must be stored securely to prevent inappropriate access or use by pupils. Teachers are cautious with older, solvent-based Tippex, with aerosols, glues and board-cleaning fluids.

So called 'legal highs' that are often designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs and are not permitted at college and are seen in the same light as any other illegal drug.

Drugs Incidents

In dealing with drug and alcohol-related incidents, the college's primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and the wellbeing of the college community as a whole

Drugs or alcohol-related incidents can generally be placed into one of three categories:

- rumours of use or dealing on or off the College premises;
- actual use or dealing on or off the College premises, possibly including a first aid response;
- disclosures of personal or others' use from a student or parent and requests for help and support.

Responses will be equally varied according to the circumstances. Each incident will be considered individually and actions will follow the college's Behaviour Policy. Procedures will be consistently applied but will also take account of the circumstances of the individual case.

Fixed-term exclusion is a possible response to a drug or alcohol incident, but would always be considered alongside the provision of support for the student in addressing a possible drug or alcohol problem. Permanent exclusion will be considered in serious cases and in all cases where a student has been involved in supplying drugs to others.

Managing People under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Irrespective of the nature of the incident, St George's college will exercise its duty of care regarding anyone involved in the use of drugs, alcohol or other substances and will act in such a way as to ensure their health and well-being.

Where there is a perceived risk to others in college, all reasonable steps will be taken to reduce this threat. This may include reasonable use of force (please see the college's Use of reasonable force policy for further guidance on this), contacting the police or other appropriate measures.

If a member of staff has a concern over a student who may be under the influence of drugs/alcohol, they will escort the student to the nurse or DSL, for immediate care and assessment.

If staff are concerned that a child or young person in their care is under the influence of any substance, and to move the student to the nurse or DSL might put the student at further risk or due to the condition of the student this is not possible, medical advice must be sought from the nurses.

Drug and substance use can lead to acute intoxication, unconsciousness or even coma, and it is important that staff know what to do in such situations.

If a student is unable to be escorted to the nurses, summoning medical help from the nurse is crucial, but in the interim period emergency aid should be applied as follows:

- move the child or young person as little as possible
- put into the recovery position
- ensure the mouth is open and unobstructed

- keep them warm and quiet
- monitor breathing, start artificial respiration if breathing stops or become shallow
- apply chest compression if there is no heartbeat.

If staff have any suspicions that a pupil is intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance, care should be taken to not chase or overexcite the pupil. Strenuous activity for volatile substance misusers can increase the risk of sudden death. The pupil should be kept calm until the effects have worn off.

The college will offer support and guidance to students and to others where their behaviour is detrimental to themselves or the care of others. This may include referral to outside agencies that can provide suitable care, guidance and support.

Any suspected illegal substances should be confiscated, and steps taken to ensure that an offence, under the Misuse of Drugs Act, does not take place, by ensuring appropriate disposal.

It is legal to confiscate alcohol from children and young people, but parents/carers should be offered an opportunity to collect any alcohol that is confiscated.

Tobacco, solvents and drug related paraphernalia can be confiscated from pupils in college, and parents/carers offered an opportunity to collect any items. However, because of the level of danger posed by volatile substances, colleges may choose to arrange for safe disposal and inform parents/carers of this. If a pupil has alcohol, tobacco or solvents in college they have broken a college rule, not a law.

Should suspected illegal drugs be found on the premises, the DSL or Senior house staff dealing with the situation should ensure immediate actions are taken to prevent anyone from committing, or continuing to commit an offence or cause harm. This should be by destroying the suspicious substance, if a smaller quantity, or, if larger quantities or a suspected Class A drug, by ensuring secure storage until handing them over to the police when they attend to take over any investigation.

If the substance is to be destroyed, it is advised that this is carried out by the senior member of staff, with another member of staff present as a witness. A written record must be made. It may not be immediately obvious whether any suspected illegal drugs found are intended solely for an individual's use or for supply to others.

Illegal/unauthorised Medications should be retained to be disposed of by a chemist or the Police.

Whilst on duty, staff must not consume or be under the influence of alcohol or any substance, including prescribed medication, which may affect their ability to care for children.

Staff should be aware that breaches of the law and other professional guidelines could result in disciplinary action being taken against them; criminal action and/or other proceedings including barring by the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) from working in regulated activity, or for acts of serious misconduct prohibition from teaching by the National College of Teaching & Leadership (NCTL).

Drug Testing

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at St George's, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

Where there is reasonable suspicion that a student is or may be under the influence of a drug, students may be asked to undergo a drug test. Where students refuse to do a drugs test, and there is reasonable grounds to require a student to do a drug test, it may be

Drug testing will be conducted by members of staff authorised by the DSL.

If a pupil test positive to a drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance), the relevant sanction in accordance with the colleges behaviour policy will be applied.

Support

Drug education is delivered through the PSHE programme. St George's is committed to support students and where a student is involved in a drug related incident, they will be offered in the first instance support through the BHS counsellor and nurses at Buckswood Health Services.

Students may be referred to external agencies for further support if appropriate.

References

In January 2012, the Department for Education (DfE) published reduced and succinct guidance on drugs in colleges. As part of the statutory duty on colleges to promote students' wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in preventing drug misuse as part of their pastoral responsibilities. This policy sets out the college's values and ethos as well as the action that the college will take to support its view regarding drug and alcohol misuse.

The East Sussex Drugs and Alcohol Protocol for schools October 2017 has also been considered in the development of this policy. The college has a responsibility under s175 Education Act 2002 to ensure that all their functions are carried out with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of the children/young people in their care. Further statutory guidance can be found in [Keeping Children Safe in Education July 2015](#)

The Government's Drug Strategy 2010 requires that staff in school have the information, advice and power to:

- provide accurate information on drugs and alcohol through education and targeted information;
- tackle problem behaviour in schools, with wider powers of search and confiscation;
- work with local voluntary organisations, health partners, the police and others to prevent drug or alcohol misuse.