



## DRUGS AND DRUGS TESTING SENIOR POLICY

**SCHOOL DIVISION:** SENIOR/BOARDING  
**POLICY DIVISION:** MEDICAL  
**POLICY OWNER:** Head of Senior School  
**DATE:** September 2019

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This policy informs practice in the Senior School only (including the Boarding Houses).
- 1.2. In 2012 the Department for Education (DfE) updated its guidance to schools about drugs. This policy reflects that guidance, as well as the content of the QCA schemes of work.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1. The aims of this policy are to:
  - Clarify the school's approach to drugs, for staff, pupils, parents or carers, and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities.
  - Safeguard the health and safety of pupils and staff in our school.
  - Enable staff to manage drug-related incidents properly.

### 3. Terminology

- 3.1. The term 'drugs' is used throughout the policy to refer to all drugs:
  - All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
  - 'Legal Highs' and other substances designed to provoke an altered mindset.
  - All legal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, and also volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled).
  - All medicines, whether over-the-counter or on prescription.

### 4. Claremont School Statement

- 4.1. Claremont School believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in our school is not acceptable.
- 4.2. We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety.

## **5. Responsibilities**

### 5.1. The Head will:

- Ensure that this policy is implemented effectively.
- Manage any drug-related incidents.
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.
- Liaise with external agencies.

## **6. Objectives of Drugs Education**

### 6.1. Drugs education should enable pupils to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and others' actions. It should:

- Build on knowledge and understanding.
- Provide accurate information and clear up misunderstandings.
- Explore attitudes and values and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs.
- Develop pupils' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws and their self-awareness and self-esteem.
- Ensure that all children are taught about certain drugs in a consistent manner.

## **7. Drugs Education**

7.1. We regard drugs education as a whole-school issue and we believe that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in Science, PSHE, Religious Education and Physical Education.

7.2. We run a number of PSHE sessions throughout the year looking 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.

7.3. 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.

7.4. 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.

- 7.5. Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time. Sometimes a class teacher will seek support from a health professional. Lessons that focus on drugs education form part of a sequence of lessons that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

## **8. Drugs at School**

- 8.1. When pupils need to take prescribed medication during school hours their parents must bring written instruction to the School Office and explain the requirements. It is then stored securely and administered at the correct times. Records will be kept of all medication given. Emergency medication may be stored securely in the classroom (for anaphylaxis or asthma). Other drugs will be stored securely in the Health Centre. See "Medicines Policy".
- 8.2. 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.
- 8.3. So called 'legal highs' that are often designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs are not permitted at school and are seen in the same light at any other illegal drug.
- 8.4. Legal drugs are legitimately in school only when authorised by the Head. Smoking is not permitted anywhere in the school.
- 8.5. Alcohol to be consumed at community or parents' events will be stored securely beforehand. To sell alcohol we must be licensed under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983. Occasionally, members of staff may consume limited amounts of alcoholic drinks in the staff room after normal working hours or for celebratory purposes.

## **9. Drugs Incidents**

- 9.1. An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances, rather than illegal drugs.
- 9.2. The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position. An intoxicated pupil does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious.
- 9.3. Pupils suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm. Chasing can place intolerable strain on the heart, thus precipitating sudden death.
- 9.4. Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal. These precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.
- 9.5. Where a pupil is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug, staff are not initially permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search pupils' bags and lockers. In such circumstances the student should be accompanied to see the Head, who will supervise a personal search in line with school policy.

- 9.6. The Head will consult the Principal and decide if the Police need to be called or whether the school will manage the incident internally.
- 9.7. A full record will be made of any incident.
- 9.8. The Head will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

## **10. Drug Testing**

- 10.1. The School will download the MOSA “Guidelines for Testing for Substance Misuse in Schools” should the need occur and will abide by these guidelines.
- 10.2. We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Claremont School, 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.
- 10.3. Drug testing would be conducted under the MOSA guidelines. Full details of the arrangements will be sent to any parent or guardian. If a pupil fails their first drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance), they should expect to be expelled however they may be allowed to remain at the school on condition that they submit to regular drug testing throughout their remaining time at the school, and on the clear understanding that they will be expelled immediately on failure of a subsequent drug test, or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way.

## **11. Support**

- 11.1. If a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies him/herself as a drug user and asks for help, or if his/her parents or friends ask for help on his/her behalf, we may, at the discretion of the Head, offer him/her the opportunity to reform his/her habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling at the parents’ expense.

## **12. The Role of Parents**

- 12.1. The school is well aware that the primary role in children’s drugs education lies with parents. We wish to build positive and supporting relationships with the parents of our pupils, through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. To promote this objective we will:
  - Make the school drugs policy available to parents.
  - Answer any questions parents may have about the drugs education their child receives in school.
  - Take seriously any issue which parents raise about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in the school.
- 12.2. When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school and a pupil is involved, we will inform the parents and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.
- 12.3. Pupils involved in the use or distribution of unauthorised drugs can expect to be permanently excluded from the school. In certain circumstances, and at the

discretion of the Head, a supportive programme of drug testing may be introduced as an alternative sanction.

12.4. Staff will seek advice from Senior Management before discharging a pupil to the care of an intoxicated parent, particularly when the parent intends driving the pupil home. Staff will suggest an alternative arrangement, such as seeking an alternative family member or friend. The police may be called if necessary. The focus will be the pupil's welfare and safety. Where the behaviour of an intoxicated parent repeatedly places a child at risk, or the parent or carer becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures and possibly the involvement of the police.

### **Policy Owner**

12.1. The policy owner is the Head of Senior School.

### **13. Issue Date**

13.1. Issue date: September 2019.

### **14. Review Date**

14.1. This policy will be reviewed annually. The next review is due in September 2020.

**Ratified by WSLT:**



**Mr E Dickie**  
**Head of Senior School**

**September 2019**