



**SEDBERGH SCHOOL
AND
CASTERTON, SEDBERGH PREPARATORY SCHOOL**

Drugs and Drug Testing Policy	
Version	2024.1
Effective from	July 2024
Extent of Policy	Sedbergh Senior School Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School
Policy Owner	Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) HM (Prep)
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We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Prep 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 illicit drugs and substances. A number of our staff are trained in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse. This policy should be considered alongside the School's Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

Drugs and/or substances means illegal substances, controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, substances commonly referred to as "legal highs" or "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance-enhancing drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS), anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. If School staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances and applies to all pupils when they are on School premises, or in the care of the School, or wearing School uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the School. The policy should also be considered alongside the School Medical Policy.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We have extensive health education and Sedbergh Compass and PSHE programmes at Sedbergh School and Casterton, Sedbergh Prep School that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol, tobacco and other prohibited substances, these concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. However, they also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the law. Our programmes involve pupils of all ages and continue throughout a pupil's time at the School. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE, Science and Drama lessons. We also invite visiting lecturers to cover the serious risks from abuse of legal and illegal drugs or substances including alcohol, tobacco, vapes and nicotine pouches.

Our medical staff play an active role in promoting healthy lifestyles and ensuring greater awareness about the risks involved in the inappropriate use of drugs and/or substances. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their Housemaster/ Housemistress, Tutor or AHSM. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Staff and to the Independent Listener for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We welcome the opportunity to discuss matters with parents or guardians and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the wellbeing of our pupils.

SUPPORT

If a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies himself/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, depending upon the circumstances, and at the discretion of the Headmaster offer him/her the opportunity to reform his/her habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling at the parents' expense.

PROCEDURES

Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to involvement with drugs or other prohibited substances will be followed up and assessed; all appropriate drug-related incidents

will be notified to Children's Services. The DSL/DDSL will be informed of all serious cases and will decide whether a referral to Children's Services is necessary in order to ensure the right help and advice is provided. Where significant harm (actual or likely) is a feature a referral in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy will always be made to Children's Services. A pupil suspected of such involvement may be suspended pending the outcome of an assessment or investigation by Children's Services.

The Headmaster and staff authorised by the Headmaster may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions without their consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has drugs or substances in their possession.

If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of Children's Services and/or the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the Children's Services and/or the School for further assessment.

Young people are becoming increasingly aware of, and in some cases using, new psychoactive substances (NPS). These are designed to mimic the effect of illegal drugs but are structurally different enough to avoid being classified as illegal substances under the Misuse of Drugs Act. Despite being labelled as legal these substances are not always safe to use and often contain controlled drugs making them illegal to possess. New psychoactive substances should be included in the school drug policy as unauthorised substances and treated as such. If there is uncertainty about what the substance is, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

A pupil suspected of involvement with unauthorised substances, either in or out of term time, may be asked to give a biological sample. The reason for this policy is:

- to deter breaches of School discipline;
- to identify users;
- to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.

Reason to suspect use of drugs or substances may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.

The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives his/her informed consent in writing. The member of staff leading the investigation will determine whether or not the pupil is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of the School Doctor.

If a pupil refuses to provide a biological sample he/she will be asked to say why he/she has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from his/her response and general demeanour. If a parent's consent is required and they refuse to consent to their child providing a biological sample, the School may draw inferences from this as well as the pupil's

general demeanour. Reasonable endeavours will be made to inform parents or guardians of the outcome of any biological sample tests and the reasons for taking the sample.

Where there is a positive test, or where the pupil refuses to provide a sample to be tested, the School will follow a disciplinary procedure. The taking of the unauthorised substances outside of term time will be deemed irrelevant if the drugs test is positive during term time and normal sanctions will apply. In cases where a pupil may expect to be expelled, the School will follow the procedure set out in its Policy on Expulsion, Removal and Review.

SANCTIONS

The usual sanction for possession, use or supply of drugs or substances is expulsion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve suspension and a final warning. Any pupil found supplying or offering drugs to another person will be expelled and, following consultation with the Governors, any criminal activity will be referred to the police. Please see School's Behaviour, Rewards & Sanctions Policy.

For further guidance see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>

Dr J M Burns
Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral)
Reviewed: July 2024

Drugs & Drug Testing Policy – Action Points

UNDERTAKING	BY WHOM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide extensive health education and PSHE programmes focusing upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse 	Head of PSHE, Heads of Year and medical staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and assess rumours about involvements in drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching his/her room and personal possessions, informing parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the School to discuss the matter. If an investigation is required a referral will be made to Children’s Services. 	Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Headmaster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange for a pupil to discretely provide a biological sample to be tested in the presence of two senior members of staff. All such tests to be recorded on CPOMS. 	Senior Deputy Head (Pastoral)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impose an appropriate sanction on any pupil found in possession of or to have used drugs or substances. In some cases, expulsion may be deemed to be the appropriate sanction. 	Headmaster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expel any pupil found supplying or offering drugs or substances to another person and, following consultation with the Governors, the matter may be referred to the police 	Headmaster