



ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL
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Drugs Policy

Authorised by: The Board of Governors of St Benedict's School

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Signature:

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Parents on request/School Website

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This policy takes into account the following guidance:

DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (2012)

Screening, Searching and Confiscation: Advice for Headteachers, School Staff and Governing Bodies (DfE, February 2014)

St Benedict's aims to take all possible steps within its power and jurisdiction to encourage and maintain an environment for all students which is free of illegal drugs and free of the temptation to take drugs or other substances which are unregulated and have a potentially harmful effect on their physical and emotional wellbeing.

To this end, the School has in place:

- a drugs' education programme aimed at students and their parents;
- a clear disciplinary sanction intended to deter the use of drugs;
- a testing procedure which can either confirm or remove suspicion of drug-taking.

Students can discuss their concerns about drug and substance misuse (either their own or a family member or friends) with any member of staff without fear of sanction. Where a student voluntarily identifies himself/herself as a drug user we may (depending on the circumstances) work with them and their parents to offer support through a drug rehabilitation programme. A student who is suffering as a result of drug misuse at home should be seen as a safeguarding concern and offered immediate support.

The normal sanction for any student possessing or using illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C) or new psychoactive substances (so-called 'legal highs') at School, or when otherwise under School rules or control, is expulsion. Any student selling, supplying or offering drugs to another student will be expelled and the matter may be referred to the Police.

The school reserves the right to investigate rumours about involvement in illegal drugs and new psychoactive substances (legal highs), including questioning a student and searching their locker and personal possessions. The School may require a test to be taken by any student of whom there is reasonable cause to suspect that they may be using illegal drugs or new psychoactive substances. Refusal to take a test will be regarded as a disciplinary offence and the School may proceed as if there had been a positive test.

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

St Benedict's discourages the use of dietary supplements. Medical advice is that a healthy balanced diet and appropriate levels of exercise is the best way for young people to develop and grow in a healthy way. There are risks with certain unregulated supplements (often purchased online), and even regulated supplements can be harmful if overused.

Any students found with dietary supplements who does not have the required consent will have them confiscated and returned to parents.

The use of supplements in the Gym at St Benedict's or at Perivale is banned at all times. Students found with supplements will have them confiscated by staff who will report their use to the student's Division Head.

Any suspicion that a student is misusing supplements or other banned substances, such as steroids, will be thoroughly investigated and treated seriously.