

Misuse of Drugs Policy

A pupil will be liable to temporary or permanent exclusion from the School 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 School (or while travelling to and from the School in uniform or on School transport).

- Any dangerous or classified drug or steroid (unless prescribed and notified to the School Medical Centre)
- Any harmful substance

School Policy on Drug Misuse

The School believes that the use or supply of drugs or harmful substances is wrong. The School accepts that its own pupils are unlikely to be markedly different in this respect from their peers in other parts of the country. The School provides a planned programme of Personal Health and Social Education (Life Skills) including the 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 School's Medical Officer assists in this programme and is able and willing to give drug and solvent misuse advice to those for whom this is a particular problem.

The School 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 community. The possession and use of any illegal substance at Aldenham School 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 School or out of School (where it impacts on their behaviour) risks permanent exclusion. With regard to drug testing in the School's Terms and Conditions (to which every parent agrees when joining Aldenham) it is clearly stated that:

7(g) "The Headmaster may at any time require a medical certificate as to the general health of the pupil or (where grounds for suspicion exists) a urine sample taken under medical supervision to test for illegal substances".

In support of this (and in some cases to dispel unfounded suspicion) the School operates a non-random drug testing policy. We do not at present, and have no current intention of running a random testing policy.

To offer counselling in drug misuse the Medical Officer wishes to protect the availability and confidentiality of individual advice in the Medical Centre and therefore any samples which may be required will be given under medical supervision normally in the Red House Surgery in Radlett (in School out of hours). 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 Headmaster would take a view based on the evidence leading to the suspicion, and the evidence gathered

- Testing kits from a reputable lab are used and the 'Chain of custody' is sound
- Where a sample is found to be negative, the School 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 Headmaster concludes (either through evidence or admission) that a pupil has supplied or sold illegal substances to other pupils within or without School, that pupil will be permanently excluded. The School operates a "zero tolerance policy" in this respect.

September 2007

Reviewed January 2008

JCF