St David's College

— Est. 1965 —

DRUGS POLICY

Drug's policy

Date	Review Date	SLT Responsible	Nominated Governor
01/09/2026	01/09/2027	Steve Delaney	-

Contents

HOY, HM and SLT contact information

Purpose

Definition of drugs

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of our pupils

Authority

Staff support and training

Prevention through education

Suspicion of misuse

Investigation into possible misuse

Testing

Action following misuse

Determining a false positive

Pastoral care and support

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Signs and symptoms of drug abuse

Appendix 2 – Useful organisations

HOY, HM and SLT contact information

Heads of Year

Year 7	Miss Felicity Smith
Years 8 & 9	Mrs Elle Jones
Years 10 & 11	Mr Rob Fairest
Years 12 & 13	Mrs Hannah Glover

Housemasters

Cader	Mrs Sian Mulvihill	07956 575087
Snowdon	Mr Jon Demery	07956 576148
Tryfan	Mrs Hannah Smith	07956 576373

SLT (Pastoral)

Deputy Head	Mr Steve Delaney	07498 501272
Assistant Head	Mrs Sue Davies	07498 501276
Headmaster	Mr Andy Russell	07498 500979

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to give a clear statement to pupils, staff and parents about St David's College's attitudes regarding drug use. It is also to prevent pupils from using controlled drugs at any time. It aims to strike a balance between concern for the individual, and concern for the welfare of the community as a whole. We recognise that all schools have illegal drug users and no school is immune.
We believe this policy should be a working document that is fit for purpose, represents the school ethos and enables consistency and quality across the school.

Definition of drugs

For the purpose of this policy, 'drugs' include: illegal substances, solvents, alcohol, so called 'legal highs', Nitrous Oxide, and prescription only drugs not prescribed or taken in a way which has not been prescribed/advised by a prescribing medical professional.

The school's stance towards drugs, health and the needs of our pupils

In keeping with the ethos of St David's College, this policy seeks to outline the ways in which students are prepared and equipped to meet confidently the challenges of the wider world. Drug, alcohol and substance misuse is detrimental to the development of young people. The first concern in managing drugs is the health and safety of the school's community and meeting the pastoral needs of students. St David's College seeks to minimise the following harmful outcomes:

- Health problems - short- and long-term damage to health
- The breakdown of trust which can take place between students, parents and staff
- Effect on peers and other students
- Inability to meet academic and personal potential
- Social/financial difficulties - conflict with parents, teachers and other students
- Legal difficulties - prosecution can affect freedom, career and travel

The principles underlying St David's College's policy are as follows:

- respect for the Law is fundamental
- the school has a duty to safeguard the physical and mental well-being of all its pupils, and enable them to grow and learn in a healthy environment
- the school has a duty to inform pupils about the ways in which different substances can affect their physical and mental state
- the School has a duty to encourage individuals to think carefully about their attitudes and aspirations, and to develop the self-esteem necessary to enable them to make sensible and independent decisions.

Authority

The people responsible for ensuring the implementation of this policy are the Headmaster and Deputy Headmaster as part of their overall responsibility for education and discipline in the school. The policy has been made after consulting Governors, teachers, legal and medical advisers.

Staff support and training

All staff at St David's College will complete regular training on drug and alcohol misuse.

Prevention through education

The School recognises its responsibility to prepare young people for the opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

If we are to prepare young people for living in an environment where drugs are increasingly used, we need to ensure that all students receive an appropriate curriculum matched to their age and readiness. This will enable them to make the right choices.

It is recognised that many aspects of the curriculum contribute towards enabling young people not only to know how to stay safe from substance misuse, but also to have the high self-esteem and interpersonal skills that enable them to stay safe and in control. The raising of every student's selfesteem is fundamental to the school's mission and embedded within its Christian ethos.

The education of our pupils will happen in a number of ways to include:

- Drug issues being addressed across the curriculum e.g. in PE and Biology
- As part of an integrated PSHE programme
- Visiting speakers from outside agencies are used to offer particular expertise and all visitors to our classrooms will work to the principles outlined in this policy.
- The School Police Liaison Officer delivering age appropriate lessons throughout the year on Substance Misuse.
- Help will be provided for anyone genuinely seeking help in this area. We encourage students to discuss their anxieties about drugs or substances in confidence with a member of staff. Matters brought up in this way, in circumstances which are genuine, can be ring fenced from disciplinary sanctions, unless to do so would fail to adequately safeguard other students. Anyone with a drugs problem will receive help but will go onto a programme of regular testing.

Suspicion of misuse

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil is misusing drugs, he/she must report the situation to the relevant Housemaster or Deputy Head or Assistant Head Pastoral who will decide if further investigation or a drug test is warranted.

Suspicion of misuse may be aroused by behavioural and other signs, which may in turn be associated with deterioration in a pupil's welfare and/or performance. Accordingly, all staff must be alert to signs of drug misuse, taking into account the warning signs. Such signs include

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities
- Decline in performance in schoolwork
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability

- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Stealing money or goods
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause
- No interest in physical appearance
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose

Heavy use of scents, colognes etc. to disguise the smell of drugs • Lack of appetite

- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils)
- Regular absence on certain days
- Keeping at a distance from other pupils, away from supervision points (e.g. groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field)
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking

Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (e.g. perhaps to shoplift solvents)

Use of drug takers' slang

Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances

- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the
- peer group

Other signs or evidence may include

- Foil containers or cup shapes made from silver foil, perhaps discoloured by heat • Metal tins
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Pill boxes
- Plastic, cellophane or metal foil wrappers
- Small plastic or glass phials or bottles
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Sugar lumps
- Syringes and needles
- Cigarette papers and lighters
- Spent matches
- Plastic bags and butane gas containers (solvent abuse)
- Cardboard or other tubes (heroin)
- Stamps, stickers, transfers or similar items
- Shredded cigarettes, home-rolled cigarettes and pipes (cannabis)
- Paper (about 2 inches square) folded to form an envelope (heroin)

Any suspicion of drug sale/supply use or possession will be investigated thoroughly. Investigation may include questioning of the individual(s) under suspicion and others; searches of pupils' room or belongings (see separate room search policy); examination of other evidence. If there is a strong but inconclusive evidence of drug use, a pupil may be required to take a drug test. A pupil may also take a test if he or she feels that they are under suspicion and wishes to exonerate themselves.

Investigation into possible misuse

Once there has been confirmation that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has been using controlled drugs, the Headmaster or Deputy Head shall be accountable for any further investigation; they may decide that a pupil shall take a urine/swab test, or they may decide to inform the police immediately.

Responsibility for all investigations rests with the Headmaster or the Deputy Head, who will make every effort to ensure that they are conducted fairly and with as much openness towards the affected pupil as the circumstances may reasonably allow.

Wherever possible, the School, via the Housemaster, Deputy Head or Assistant Head, will contact the pupil's parents/guardians at the time to let them know of the decision to test. If the parent/guardian is unavailable, and all possible means of contact have been exhausted, the investigation will have to continue.

Urine sampling and testing will be carried out in accordance with the guidelines produced by MOSA (Medical Officers of Schools Association), details of which are available from the School. The procedure may change from time to time as dictated by experience and/or scientific advance and therefore the written procedure may be updated at any time.

The School reserves the right to use trained sniffer dogs to assist with any search for drugs. This may be done randomly and without notice.

Testing

The School may require a student to provide a biological sample, urine or saliva for testing where there is a suspicion or a report that the student may have used drugs or substances or where a student has previously tested positive for these. Detection is an important part of our drugs policy: testing acts as a powerful deterrent against drug abuse, and we value it as such. Tests are not carried out randomly. They are however always carried out where there is reasonable cause for concern. Parents or pupils can refuse a test. In such circumstances, the School must assume that drug abuse is taking place and that our policy for preventing it has been rejected. Accordingly, exclusion must automatically follow.

The MOSA guidelines for testing are as follows:

1/ Written informed consent is required before the sample is collected. The pupil does not need to be over 16 years of age to give valid consent. "Competency", i.e. the ability to understand the nature of the test and the consequences of refusing to provide a sample, is the measure.

2/ It is not necessary to have parental consent although this is desirable and will form part of the conversation with parents when they are notified of the decision to test. Certainly, parents should be informed at the earliest opportunity although any test should not be delayed unreasonably in order to achieve this. Significant delay can allow the pupil to influence the outcome of the test e.g. drinking large amounts of water overnight can dilute the urine sufficiently to produce a negative result where the levels of the drug are not high to start with.

3/ The testing procedure should be standardised and preferably it should be performed by the same team. To ensure that the process is witnessed, there should be two collection officers neither of whom are medical centre staff or the pupil's residential staff. The nursing staff and residential staff should not be involved in the testing procedures. To do so compromises their ability to provide confidential, supportive care to either the index pupil or to other pupils who might then no longer see the medical service as either confidential or independent. The ability of the medical service to counsel and support pupils in trouble is greatly reduced if pupils do not feel that they have sufficient trust in the service to allow them to consult.

4/ A cubicle and lavatory should be chosen that does not contain a wash basin within the cubicle itself. The water in the bowl of the lavatory and in the cistern should be coloured with a dye (e.g. Jeyes Bloo or fountain pen ink).

5/ The pupil should be prepared in such a way that it is impossible for he or she to bring any liquid into the cubicle.

6/ The collectors must be satisfied that the liquid in the bottle contains urine from the pupil and the bottles are then sealed in the presence of the pupil.

7/ The urine tests used at St David's College are 'Alere™ Point of Care Urine Tests'. The point of care tests screen for up to ten drugs at once, providing results in five minutes.

The pupil will be asked to provide a urine sample in a plastic cup. Once the sample has been taken, the member of staff will transfer the sample into the urine test cup. Once the lid is secure, the member of staff then inserts a key into the bottom of the test cup. This activates the release of the sample. The test results show on the attached test stripes which cannot be removed or tampered with. There is also a temperature gauge which aids in the determination of the specimen validity.

If a pupil or their parents refuse the test, St David's College will assume that drug abuse is taking place and that our policy for preventing it has been rejected. Accordingly, exclusion must automatically follow.

Action following misuse

If there is firm evidence that a pupil has been taking controlled drugs, he/she will automatically be sent home to discuss the gravity and consequences of his misconduct with his parents or guardians. The Headmaster, Deputy Headmaster, Assistant Head Pastoral and appropriate residential staff will meet to determine whether the pupil will be allowed to remain at St David's College. If a pupil is allowed to remain at St David's College, he/she will be given further guidance and support and offered specialist counselling. He/she will also be under an obligation to submit to a regime of random testing for the rest of their time at St David's College. A subsequent positive test will lead to the pupil's permanent exclusion. Any pupil caught supplying or inciting the use of controlled drugs or so called "legal high" substances or being in possession of them with intent to supply, will be permanently excluded.

The records of testing will not be used for any other purpose and they will be destroyed when the pupil concerned leaves the School.

Determining a false positive

We are aware that many of our pupils take medication and parents may be concerned that this could lead to a false positive. Our medical centre has enquired about this with the manufacturers of the drug tests who have assured us that methylphenidate, which is found in the medications taken by pupils, will not cause a positive result on the amphetamines drug test.

Pastoral care and support

If there is a possibility that a pupil has been using any of the above substances, normal first aid procedures should be followed; they should not be left alone, and the Medical Centre Staff should be informed immediately.

If it becomes clear that a pupil needs support in relation to drug misuse, whether or not disciplinary action has to be taken, St David's College will make every effort to recommend appropriate sources of help and guidance.

Appendix One – Signs and symptoms of drug abuse

Signs and Symptoms of Drug Abuse

Drug or solvent misuse: recognising the signs (Reproduced from "Drug Misuse and the Young - A Guide for the Education Service").

Warning Signs

Early detection of drugs misuse is extremely important. If a young person's drug misuse is identified at an early stage, it is easier for action to be taken to prevent his or her further misuse of drugs. Therefore, teachers need to be vigilant, particularly when they are in charge of activities, which take groups of young people away from the school premises. Research has shown that first experiments with drugs by young people almost always involve a substance provided by a friend. The warning signs listed below may indicate that individuals or groups of young people are misusing drugs. Their presence alone is not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse: many of them are a normal part of adolescence, but the presence of several signs together may point to a need for greater vigilance.

The Objects List gives an indication of equipment which, if found in certain circumstances, might also give grounds for concern.

Warning Signs in Individuals

- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in school activities
- Decline in performance in schoolwork
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Stealing money or goods
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause
- No interest in physical appearance
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose

  Heavy use of scents, colognes etc. to disguise the smell of drug • Lack of appetite
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils)
-

Warning Signs in Groups

- Regular absence on certain day

  Keeping at a distance from other pupils, away from supervision points (e.g. groups who
- frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field)
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (e.g. perhaps to shoplift solvents)
- Use of drug takers' slang

  Associating briefly with one person who is much older and not normally part of the peer group
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances
-

Objects that may indicate Drug Misuse

- Foil containers or cup shapes made from silver foil, perhaps discoloured by heat
- Metal tins
- Spoons discoloured by heat
- Pill boxes
- Plastic, cellophane or metal foil wrappers
- Small plastic or glass phials or bottles
- Twists of paper
- Straws
- Sugar lumps
- Syringes and needles
- Cigarette papers and lighters
- Spent matches
- Plastic bags and butane gas containers (solvent abuse)
- Cardboard or other tubes (heroin)
- Stamps, stickers, transfers or similar items
- Shredded cigarettes, home-rolled cigarettes and pipes (cannabis)
- Paper (about 2 inches square) folded to form an envelope (heroin)

Appendix 2 – Useful organisations

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640

Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510.

Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910

Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk

Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450

Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope - is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and accessto the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7520 7550

Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK - is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600

Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK - is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494.

Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau - promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000

Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: http://familylives.org.uk/

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) - A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885

Information line: 01785 810762

Email: information@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking

Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: http://smokefree.nhs.uk

Stars National Initiative - offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team