



KINGSBRIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Drugs Policy

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This policy aims to promote the right of everyone to feel secure and safe in college, and for children to feel protected at Kingsbridge Community College. It should be read in conjunction with the College's Behaviour for Learning Policy

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. All Students are informed about the nature and effects of drugs through the PSHE programme and associated activities during the secondary phase. All students have the right to be educated in a community where neither the use nor passing of drugs is tolerated. Every situation is thoroughly investigated and any subsequent action considers the need to balance the seriousness of the incident, the needs and circumstances of the individual and the need to ensure that the College remains a drug free community. This includes College trips and visits and transport to and from College.

Article 3 (best interests of the child)

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 12 (respect for the views of the child)

Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. This right applies at all times, for example during immigration proceedings, housing decisions or the child's day-to-day home life.

Article 28 (right to education)

Every child has the right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29 (goals of education)

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

2. Definitions

- 2.1. For the purposes of this policy, DRUGS include the following:

- Controlled substances (e.g., Amphetamines, Cannabis, Cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Magic Mushrooms).
- Legal Highs.
- Prescribed or medicinal drugs that are improperly used.
- Drugs which interfere with a student's ability to learn (e.g., alcohol, solvents, legal highs)
- Drugs which have a harmful effect on health (e.g., tobacco)
- Drugs which are misused to enhance performance (e.g., steroids)
- Vaporisers used to inhale any substance

3. Procedures

- 3.1. As a result of misusing drugs, a medical emergency may come about when a person is:

- Unconscious
- Having trouble breathing
- Is seriously confused or disorientated
- Thought to have taken a harmful toxic substance
- Is at immediate risk of harm
- Showing physical symptoms

- 3.2. In any incident involving drugs, the need for medical help overrides all other considerations, and the normal College First Aid Procedures are followed.
- 3.3. Suspicion that an incident has arisen involving drugs may come about for a number of reasons, including:
- Illness, inappropriate or uncharacteristic behaviour
 - Visual symptoms or odours associated with substance/drug misuse
 - Information alleging possession or supply of drugs from other people in our community
 - Drugs found
- 3.4. We have a duty of care to investigate all situations where the information implies the involvement of an illegal substance. Upon receipt of such information the person is questioned by a member of the college Inclusion Team or Senior Leadership Team, with another member of staff present.
- 3.5. Drug related suspicion will result in the student's bag and pockets being searched. This will be explained to the student and a second member of staff will always be present. If a student refuses a bag search the consequence is a suspension from college. It is recognised that on some occasions suspicions are quickly shown by investigation to be unfounded, and that on other occasions it is important to question a number of students, keeping them separate to avoid later allegations of collusion.
- 3.6. Smoking, vaping and alcohol are not permitted at any time on the college site. If a student smokes, vapes or drinks alcohol, or is present with others smoking, vaping or drinking alcohol a bag search will take place. A bag search will always be conducted with two adults in attendance. Any items or related paraphernalia that are found during a bag search is confiscated and disposed of. Items are not returned to students. Parents and carers are informed by phone as soon as possible of the outcomes of investigations. The College reports to the Police any relevant information gained in the course of investigations.
- 3.7. Any illegal drugs found during investigations are passed to the Police for disposal. Tobacco, alcohol and medications are disposed of. Items are not returned to students.
- 3.8. Consequences consider the needs of all concerned. We seek to balance the needs of the individual student concerned with the key principle that all members of the College have the right to be educated in a community that is free from the misuse of drugs and free from any pressure or influence to become involved with them.

4. Consequences

- A student in possession of drugs or associated equipment or who has used drugs during the College day will have a consequence of a suspension up to and including five days.
 - A student who repeats a similar offence may be recommended for permanent exclusion.
 - A student who is found to be in serious breach of this policy, for example by possessing large quantities of drugs, or by supplying or intending to supply drugs to others for sale or otherwise, is likely to be recommended for permanent exclusion from the College, even if it is a first offence.
- 4.1. Care is always taken to ensure that the consequence matches the seriousness of the offence. In determining such consequences, the College considers a number of factors including motive, reliability of evidence, the nature of the drug, and the attitude of the student.

- 4.2. Consequences are balanced with support, and meetings with parents and students following incidents always explore ways of offering support from within the College and/or referral to other agencies, e.g., YSMART.
- 4.3. This policy applies to incidents which take place during the College day which include the journey time before and after college and lunchtimes and any other time where the student is wearing college uniform. It also applies to all College trips and visits.