

King Edward VI High School for Girls Drugs Policy

DRUGS POLICY

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at KEHS, 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 girls the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

TERMINOLOGY

The expressions "drugs" and "substances" refer to the possession, use and supply of controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or 'legal' drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue, solvents, substances known as "legal highs" and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.

The three main drugs and substances offences are: supplying (dealing), possessing and using.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We have an extensive PDM programme at KEHS that focuses upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol and tobacco, they 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 criminal law. Our programme of drugs education involves pupils from Year 9 upwards and continues throughout their time at the school. The subject is also covered in other areas of the curriculum, including Science lessons. Pupil planners contain advice and contact numbers of confidential help lines and web sites connecting to external specialists, such as Childline, Kidscape and Samaritans.

Girls can discuss any individual worries about drugs or substances with their Form Tutor or any member of staff. They can also be referred to the school doctor, for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

SUPPORT

If a girl comes forward and voluntarily identifies herself as a drug user and asks for help, or if her parents or friends ask for help on her behalf, we may, depending upon the circumstances, and at the discretion of the Principal, offer her the opportunity to reform her habit with the support of Counselling at the parents' expense. Advice and help can be accessed through our school doctor.

INVESTIGATION

We will always investigate rumours about involvement in drugs and substances, including questioning a girl, searching her locker, bag and personal possessions (two members of staff would always be present). We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

If there is reason to suspect that a girl has been involved in the use of drugs or substances she may be asked to supply, under medical supervision, a urine sample for analysis.

Any disciplinary action taken will be in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy and Exclusion, Removal and Review Policy.

SANCTIONS

The normal sanction for use of drugs and substances is expulsion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve suspension and a final warning. Any pupil found to have supplied drugs or substances to another pupil or anyone else is likely to be expelled and, following consultation with the Governors, the matter may be referred to the police.

Reviewed July 2017 (to be reviewed in July 2018)

The Vice Principal (Pastoral) is responsible for the monitoring and review of the Drugs Policy and reports to the Principal.

The implementation and review of the school's Drugs Policy and all curriculum issues are presented to the Education Committee of the ISGB.