



DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

This policy has been developed with reference to the guidance issued by the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Department for Education.

Drug use in society is widespread and the ready availability of drugs to young people is something all schools and parents have to concern themselves with.

We wish to have a school that is drug-free and will act to try to ensure this is and remains the situation at Clayesmore.

Illegal and other unauthorised drugs are not acceptable at the school and this policy sets out how we deal with the educational, pastoral and disciplinary aspects of drug use among our students and staff.

Our first concern in managing any incident of drug use is the health and safety of students. In all our responses to the discovery that students have used drugs we will seek to balance the needs of the individuals involved with those of the school community as a whole.

Drug use by students is often a symptom of underlying worries or unhappiness and therefore of pastoral or academic concerns. The staff know the students well and will approach any drug use with as holistic an understanding of each student's circumstances as possible.

Interviews relating to drug use will be conducted formally and privately. They will be conducted by a senior and experienced member of staff. The student will be accompanied by someone who can be a support to them in the process.

Note: reflecting common usage, the terms "drugs" and "banned substances" are used interchangeably in this policy.

Alcohol and Tobacco

This policy also contains information about the school's response to incidents related to alcohol and tobacco.

DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

- This policy was introduced in 2017, and is reviewed annually in the summer term, and at other times as appropriate.

LOCATION AND DISSEMINATION

This policy is published on the school website and parents are informed when it is modified. If any significant changes are made to the policy parents are emailed a copy and their attention is drawn to the changes.

The policy is the subject of an assembly with each year group in the first half term of each academic year.

The policy is held by the Head of PSHE and referred to when drugs are discussed as part of the curriculum.

THE CONTEXT OF THE POLICY AND RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read with reference to other school policies – specifically, the Behaviour Policy, Health and Safety, and the Storage of Medicines Policy.

When a student is known to have used drugs the school will act with pastoral concern for that individual, balancing that concern with a wider consideration for other students and for the community as a whole.

Students who use drugs can expect to be excluded from the school either temporarily or permanently, and this may mean a significant and inconvenient disruption to their formal study.

In any breach of the rules relating to drugs the students involved will be treated sensitively and pastorally, but if a young person is thought to be at risk or safe-guarding concerns arise the relevant authorities will always be informed.

LOCAL AND NATIONAL REFERENCES

1. Medicines Act 1968
2. Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
3. Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
4. Children and Young Person (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
5. Education and Inspections Act 2006
6. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
7. Children and Young Persons (Sale of Tobacco etc.) Order 2007

The following documentation is also related to this policy:

1. The DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools 2012
2. Equality Act 2010: Advice for Schools (DfE)
3. Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges (DfE) 2020
4. Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter-agency Working to Safeguard and Promote the Welfare of Children
5. Search and Confiscation Policy

THE PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to ensure

- students are given up to date advice and information about drugs, alcohol and tobacco and their effects and clear information about the law relating to these substances and young people.
- students and parents are aware of the consequences for students if they use any of these substances at Clayesmore.
- staff have guidance about how to act if they have reason to believe students have used any of these substances.

SCOPE

The policy applies to any drug use by Clayesmore students during term time, and at any other time when it impacts on the life and work of any student at Clayesmore School. Staff use of drugs is covered by this policy and by the staff Code of Conduct. The appendices to the policy contain information about the school's responses to incidents involving pupils' use of tobacco (or its substitutes) and alcohol.

DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGY

This policy covers all controlled substances as defined by the UK Home Office, and alcohol, tobacco and other substitutes.

It also covers any other substances, which may have been legally obtained, used to cause a physiological or psychological change in the user. It covers medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances and other unauthorised substances.

Medicines must be stored in, or under the control of, the Health and Wellbeing Centre, and used only in accordance with professional medical advice.

It is noted here that it is illegal for students under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol, vaping materials or tobacco, and therefore the use or possession of any of these at school is strictly forbidden and will lead to students being sanctioned in line with the Behaviour Policy.

STAFF WITH KEY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DRUGS

All staff are responsible for being vigilant about all pastoral and disciplinary concerns, including drug use.

Drugs education is part of the PSHE programme and PSHE teachers and Tutors have an important role in teaching students about drugs and about the school's policy towards drug use.

The Deputy Head Pastoral and the Head of 6th Form are responsible for ensuring that this policy is explained to all students in a year group assembly early in each academic year, and from time to time as appropriate.

The Senior Deputy is responsible for briefing all new staff on the details of the policy and for reminding all returning staff of its provisions – in a staff meeting early in the academic year.

Concerns about students using drugs will be dealt with by House Staff and one of the Deputy Heads. Staff are permitted to search for and confiscate drugs - cf. Search and Confiscation Policy.

STAFF SUPPORT AND TRAINING

All staff are introduced to the drugs policy as part of their induction and receive a reminder and updates in a staff meeting early in each academic year, and at other times as appropriate.

MANAGEMENT OF DRUGS AT SCHOOL OR ON SCHOOL TRIPS

The school recognises that the use of drugs of all kinds in society at large, and in particular among young people, is widespread. There is a wide range of views on the subject expressed

in the media and by public figures; attitudes vary between age groups, social groups and cultural groups; the legal framework is complicated; medical advice is sometimes contradictory. The principles underlying the school's policy are as follows:

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

The school adopts a 'three-pronged' approach to these issues: educational, disciplinary, and pastoral / medical.

The School's PSHE programme aims to provide accurate information about the effects and dangers of different substances, and a clear understanding of the legal implications of drug misuse. It also encourages pupils to think carefully about their attitudes and aspirations, and to explore ways of making decisions and of developing strategies for resisting 'peer pressure'.

From Year 9 upwards it provides a range of lessons given by staff, talks from the local police, videos and written information about drugs. In the Sixth Form there is, for example, discussion with local drugs counselling services. The subject is also covered in Biology and RS. Pupils are made aware of the implications for them in career terms of any police record of involvement in drugs. Training is also offered to staff, and information is available to parents through the school.

The aim of the school's disciplinary approach to drugs is to deter individuals who may be tempted to experiment or to persuade others to do so. Students on school trips are subject to all school rules, and so the same responses to suspected drug use will apply whether the student is on a trip or at school.

Staff concerned about possible use of drugs or alcohol should act immediately to ensure students are safe and that medical help is provided as required. As soon as practicable they should telephone and/or email one of the Deputy Heads for advice on how to proceed.

If the school has reasonable grounds to suspect a student has used drugs then the student will be interviewed as soon as practicable by House Staff and/or a member of SLT, and may be required to provide a sample of urine or sweat for testing. Appendix B describes the procedure for urine sampling.

The school has the right to search a student or property in line with the Search and Confiscation Policy.

From time to time, we will have Drugs Search Dogs to patrol the campus. This is to demonstrate the importance we place upon the prevention of drug abuse and to act as a deterrent.

If it becomes clear that a student has been using drugs or if the senior staff suspect such use the school will try to inform parents by telephone using the contact numbers supplied by parents and held on the school database. If contact cannot be made with parents by telephone, staff will email parents at the email addresses held on the school database.

All students suspected of drug use, even if they admit it, will be asked to provide a sample of sweat or urine – see testing procedure in Appendix B.

Students who have any history of drug use will be subject to a testing programme, and the costs of this will be paid for by parents - see Appendix D.

A record of which students have been tested will be held by the Deputy Head.

Parents/carers under the influence of drugs or alcohol on school premises will be asked to leave immediately and the police may be informed.

All drugs and drugs paraphernalia found at school must be handed to the police at the earliest opportunity or safely destroyed.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

- There is no statutory requirement to report drug incidents to the police. Generally the police would only expect to be brought in where there is an allegation of drug pushing or dealing, or where Class A drugs (including Ecstasy) are involved; they would also assist in an investigation if asked to do so.
- The school's police liaison officer will be the first point of contact.

WORKING WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

The school has a good working relationship with Dorset Social Care and Children's Services and will take advice from them in all matters regarding children's welfare.

LOCAL SERVICES

The Health and Wellbeing Centre offers confidential support and advice for any student who needs help with giving up smoking.

SHADOWS – Shire Alcohol and Drug Outreach Service. A young people's confidential drug and alcohol service for under 18s across Dorset. Email shadowsadmin@edasuk.org 01258 488486

NATIONAL SOURCES OF ADVICE

1. 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
2. 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
3. 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
4. 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

5. 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
6. 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
7. 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/
8. 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)
9. Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/
10. 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 access to 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.uk13
11. 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
12. 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
13. 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
14. 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/>
15. 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
16. Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169 Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>
17. 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

18. Directgov Young People can help young people with information and advice on issues relating to health, housing, relationships with family and friends, career and educational options, money, as well as helping young people find out about activities they can get involved in. Website:
www.direct.gov.uk/en/YoungPeople/index.htm

INFORMATION SHARING

Sensitive information is only disclosed internally or externally after careful consideration of students' rights and needs.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS / CARERS

The school will seek to inform parents as soon as concerns about a student's possible use of drugs is suspected. If the concern is not related to a specific disciplinary incident the school will seek to arrange a meeting with parents to talk through any concerns. If the concern arises out of a specific disciplinary incident House Staff or a senior member of staff will seek to make contact by telephone with parents.

THE ROLE OF GOVERNORS

The Head will inform the Chairman of Governors of all incidents involving drug use and the sanctions applied and such incidents will be reported on in the Head's termly report to governors.

Apart from the Chairman other governors will not immediately be informed when a drugs-related incident occurs in case governors are required to sit on a panel hearing an appeal against an exclusion.

STAFF CONDUCT AND DRUGS

Staff are subject to the terms and conditions set out in the Staff Code of Conduct.

APPENDIX A – Signs of possible drug use

Adults working at Clayesmore are asked to be alert to possible signs of drug use – these might be physical, mental or behavioural – and to report them to a senior member of staff and to record their concerns on myConcern.

Physical Symptoms

Changes in appearance can indicate possible drug use and may include:

1. Bloodshot or glazed eyes.
2. Dilated or constricted pupils.
3. Abrupt weight changes.
4. Bruises, infections, or other physical signs at the drug's entrance site on the body.
5. Disruption to normal brain functioning, changes in personality, and heart and organ dysfunction can be signs of long-term drug abuse. Signs will vary based on the substance.

Behavioural Symptoms

Drug abuse negatively affects a person's behaviour and habits as he or she becomes more dependent on the drug. The drug itself can alter the brain's ability to focus and form coherent thoughts, depending on the substance.

Changes in behaviour, such as the following, can indicate a problem with drug abuse:

1. Increased aggression or irritability.
2. Changes in attitude/personality.
3. Lethargy.
4. Depression.
5. Sudden changes in a social network.
6. Dramatic changes in habits and/or priorities.
7. Financial problems.
8. Involvement in criminal activity.

Learning to recognize the physical or behavioural signs of drug abuse can help prevent the problem from progressing further.

APPENDIX B – TESTING FOR DRUGS

Testing for Drugs - Procedure

1. Test – If there is a suspicion that a student has been taking a controlled substance he or she may be asked to provide a sample of sweat from their fingertips or provide a urine sample.
2. Informed Consent - The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the student rather than the parents, even if the student is under 16 years of age, provided they are of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives informed consent in writing – see Appendix C.
3. Notifying Parents - Reasonable steps will be taken to notify a parent, guardian or educational guardian of the requirement for a test and the reasons for that requirement, before the sample is taken.
4. Refusal - If a student refuses to provide a sample s/he will be asked to say why s/he has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from the response to that question and the police may be informed.
5. The student will be accompanied by a member of staff, usually house staff.
6. The testing of the sample will be carried out by a senior member of staff.
7. If the test is positive and the student denies taking a controlled substance a second test will be undertaken.
8. Medical Record - The outcome of the test, whether positive or negative, will not form part of the student's permanent medical record.

Outcome

9. For a negative result - reasonable attempts will be made to notify a parent by telephone, or via email if that is not possible. A follow up meeting with a senior member of staff will always be offered.
10. For a positive result - parents will be required to come to Clayesmore to collect the student or to make arrangements for the student to travel home. Following any positive test, there will be a period of suspension from school pending a decision on how best to proceed.

ACTION FOLLOWING A POSITIVE TEST

The student will be suspended and House Staff or a Deputy Head will contact parents immediately to arrange for the pupil to travel home or to a guardian.

Following this the Head or, in her absence, a Deputy Head will arrange a meeting at which:

1. The student will be asked to attend with his or her parents or a member of the School staff chosen by the student.

2. The evidence of the positive test and all other relevant evidence will be discussed and the student will be invited to respond.
3. The response will be heard and considered and further enquiries will be made if necessary.
4. The Head, or Deputy, will make a finding of fact based on the evidence and supported by reasons.

SANCTIONS

If the Head's decision is that the student has been using drugs in a way which falls within the scope of this policy, she will outline whether any sanctions in addition to the suspension are being considered and will then, or at a later meeting if requested, hear mitigating circumstances and then determine how to proceed.

REVIEW

If the student is expelled or required to leave, parents will be informed about the appeal process in which the case is heard by a panel of Governors. The procedure followed in such circumstances is laid out in the Exclusion Policy.

APPENDIX C – CONSENT FORM FOR SWEAT SAMPLING FROM FINGERTIPS or a URINE SAMPLE.

Today's date: _____

Your name: _____ Date of birth: _____

Name of member of staff conducting the interviews: _____

Witness to the interviews: _____

Name of person supervising the collection of a sample: _____

Our explanation – this should be read aloud to the student

The school would like you to provide a sample of sweat or urine which we can test for drugs or controlled substances.

Before we ask you to do this we are going to contact your parents and discuss it with them and you are welcome to talk to them too. If we cannot make contact with them within the next hour we will proceed without talking to them.

If you refuse to provide a sample we will want to understand your reasons. If your parents refuse to agree to our asking for a sample we will ask them for their reasons. The Head may feel that any refusal to consent to provide a sample might suggest you have been using drugs and will at that stage decide whether or not to involve the police.

We will tell you the result of the test immediately.

We will try to contact your parents within an hour of conducting the test and we will encourage you to speak with them at that stage. If we cannot contact them by telephone we will email them.

Do you have any questions about the testing process?

Do you understand what will happen if the test is positive?

Do you have any other questions?

Your consent – this should be read aloud to the student

I understand that the school wishes to test a sample of my sweat or urine (delete as appropriate) and I agree to provide a sample.

I have attended an interview with a senior member of staff, accompanied by another member of staff, and had the opportunity to ask questions about this process and about the possible consequences of a positive test.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

APPENDIX D - DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME

When a student on the school roll admits to having used a controlled substance or tests positive for one he or she will be placed on the drug testing programme.

This will be discussed with both students and parents at the time. No one will be placed on a drug testing programme without parents' knowledge.

The aim of this programme is to encourage a student to refuse drugs should they be offered them, and to reassure parents and the school that the student is not using any controlled substance.

The student will be tested

a. up to five times each academic year

and / or

b. whenever House Staff and one of the Deputy Heads believe a controlled substance might have been taken.

The cost of being on this programme is £50 p.a. which will be added to the student's end of term bill once each year or part year that the student is on the programme. This covers the cost of the testing kits.

Other notes:

1. We will conduct the tests in accordance with the guidance set out in Appendix B.
2. However, no notice will be given to students or parents.
3. We will ask the student to consent to each testing - see Appendix C above.
4. We will not contact parents before we conduct a test of a student who is on the drug testing programme.
5. We will contact parents after each test. If the test is positive we will try to do this by phone initially. If the test is negative we will do so by email.

APPENDIX E - CIGARETTES, TOBACCO AND VAPING

The Health Education Programme teaches pupils about the dangers of smoking, including the possibility of lung cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease etc; the expense of smoking; the anti-social nature of smoking; the safety risks involved in smoking (particularly covert smoking); issues surrounding the tobacco industry and advertising. It also covers the dangers posed by vaping, particularly the issues surrounding addiction to nicotine and long term, as yet unknown, effects on the respiratory system.

The programme also recognises the social pressures on young pupils to smoke or vape, and seeks to help the pupils develop strategies for resisting these pressures. Pupils are also reminded that it is illegal to sell cigarettes/e-cigarettes to anyone under the age of 18.

Discipline (Smoking)

The School rules state 'Smoking is forbidden at all times'

The disciplinary response is as follows:

- First offence leads to a letter to parents from House Staff and a five day gating. The Head is always informed.
- Second offence leads to a letter to parents from the Deputy Head and a five day gating.
- Third offence leads to a suspension.
- Smoking inside a building always carries a 2 day suspension because of the risk to life.

If, after a suspension, a pupil is caught smoking again, continued attendance at Clayesmore will be conditional upon having counselling to help break the habit, any cost of which will be met by parents or the pupil.

Pupils who persist in smoking in their boarding house may not be permitted to continue boarding because of the risk they pose to other pupils.

Because smoking can often be a social activity, where one cigarette is shared by more than one person, pupils must be aware that all those present when someone is caught smoking, may be subject to the same sanction.

Smoking paraphernalia brought to school will be confiscated and destroyed.

Discipline (Vaping)

The sale of e-cigarettes to under-18s is banned in all parts of the UK. E-cigarettes are now regulated in the UK under the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016.

Pupils should be in no doubt that the possession and/or use of vaping or any kind of e-cigarette is forbidden on school premises.

Medical opinions on the safety of vaping vary, but experience shows that vaping can be a gateway to either smoking or drug taking.

The disciplinary response is stricter than for smoking, to reflect the widespread nature of the problem and is as follows:

- First offence - possession or use of vaping equipment, in or outside of a school building will lead to a two day suspension from school.
- Subsequent offences will lead to a longer period of suspension in the first instance, after which the pupil may return to school on a Head's Contract. Failure to meet the terms of the contract may result in the pupil's place at school being under threat.

Because vaping can often be a social activity, where one vape is shared by several, pupils must be aware that all those present when someone is caught vaping, or in possession of vaping equipment, may be subject to the same sanction.

Vaping equipment brought to school will be confiscated and destroyed.

Drugs Testing (Vaping)

In recognition of the fact that it is often difficult to be certain that a pupil has been vaping, either because the vaping device has been hidden in clothing or because a vape can be easily shared, the school reserves the right to test the urine of a pupil when there are reasonable grounds to suppose that they have been vaping.

The test will be carried out in line with the testing procedure outlined in Annex B of this policy.

The outcome of a positive test for nicotine will be assumed to show that the pupil has been vaping and the relevant disciplinary sanctions will be applied.

Pastoral and Medical Care

If a pupil wishes for help to break a smoking/vaping habit, whether or not disciplinary action has been taken, the School will make every effort to provide or recommend appropriate support.

APPENDIX F - DRUGS FOR MEDICAL USE

Education

The Health Education programme discusses the use of drugs for pain relief and for therapeutic purposes, as part of the wider discussion of drug use. It also considers the dangers of overdosing, side-effects and prohibited combinations of drugs.

Discipline

Under no circumstances should pupils give any medication to other pupils. Such behaviour will be taken seriously, and dealt with according to the circumstances; normally a warning and a reminder of the potentially serious consequences of such activity (for example, an accidental overdose of paracetamol) will be sufficient.

Pastoral and Medical Care

The school is aware that, besides medication which is prescribed for individual pupils' specific needs, there is a wide variety of proprietary medicines available at Chemists and Supermarkets as well as many 'alternative' treatments such as homeopathic remedies.

The Houses all carry supplies of pain-killers, first aid requirements and basic medicines such as cough mixtures, as does the Health and Wellbeing Centre. All medicines are stored in secure and appropriate conditions, and their use recorded.

Parents are asked to ensure that any medicines needed by their children are handed to the House Staff, so that they can be administered by staff as required, and so that the School GP can be informed if any further treatment becomes necessary. In particular, pupils should not have supplies of paracetamol, aspirin etc., as it is important for staff to record dosage.

Younger pupils who suffer from conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or severe allergic reactions and are able to administer their own treatment will be given appropriate support, proper storage and disposal facilities, and access to their medication at all times. Parents will agree a regime in writing with the Health and Wellbeing Centre, and suitable training will be given to those staff in the House and in The School who are most closely involved with the pupil concerned (or who may take the pupil out of school on a trip or holiday).

Parents of Day Pupils should inform the House Staff of any course of treatment, and give clear written instructions if any medication should be administered during school hours.

APPENDIX G - ALCOHOL

Education

The PSHE programme recognises that the use of alcohol is an accepted part of our culture (although this may not be the case for pupils from other countries). It emphasises the potential dangers of both the long-term and the short-term abuse of alcohol. From Year 9 it includes sessions on the physical and social effects of alcohol; the relative strength of different types of drinks; the different effects on boys and girls; the legal framework in Britain. It also encourages pupils to think about their attitudes to risk-taking and the implications of the loss of self-control which can result from over-consumption.

Discipline

Pupils are not permitted to drink any form of alcohol except on special occasions, and with the permission of a member of staff. In more detail this means:

Below the Sixth Form pupils will not be served alcohol.

In the Sixth Form, a small amount of alcohol may be served at social events, but this will be limited to wine or beer. On these occasions the member of staff in charge will keep a careful watch on consumption, and will be aware that some pupils may be unused to alcohol. With permission, some pupils may visit approved pubs from time to time, for example for Sunday lunch. They must observe the law on these occasions (i.e. they should be aware that they will be committing an offence if they attempt to purchase or consume alcohol in bars under the age of 18) and they should not drink to excess. The School will provide them with an ID card as proof of age if required. They should not bring alcohol into school at any time.

Pupils who consume alcohol under other circumstances, who supply it to other pupils, or who drink to excess on any occasion, should expect the following disciplinary response:

- First offence leads to a letter to parents from the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and a seven day gating or, possibly, suspension if spirits are involved.
- Second offence is likely to lead to suspension.

The nature and seriousness of situations involving alcohol can vary enormously, and it is possible that immediate suspension could follow a first offence.

In addition to the above, any pupil admitted to the Health and Wellbeing Centre in these circumstances should be expected to write a formal letter of apology to the staff concerned.

Pastoral and Medical Care

If a pupil is too ill as a result of drinking to be properly cared for in the Health and Wellbeing Centre an ambulance will be called and they will be taken to hospital. The Head and parents will be informed.

It may be felt that return to school after a suspension for drinking should depend on a pupil's agreement to suitable counselling. If it becomes clear that a pupil is in need of support, whether or not disciplinary action has been taken, the School will make every effort to recommend appropriate sources of help.