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ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1 General

The supply, possession or use of drugs by members of the School is unacceptable and is not permitted. This refers to illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, glue and other substances used for abuse including those highlighted in The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 including illegal substances and those previously known as 'legal highs' or nitrous oxide. The act of inhalation of glues, gases, solvents and aerosols to elicit a mind-altering effect is also prohibited by the School and considered to be 'substance abuse.'

This policy also refers to prescription drugs obtained otherwise than through a legitimate prescription.

All the above are referred to as "drugs" in the remainder of this document.

The possession of 'drugs paraphernalia' (principally 'bongs') is unacceptable and breaches of this rule will result in suspension.

Whilst maintaining a clear policy of prohibition, as outlined above, with consequent sanctions, the School is committed to providing its pupils with drugs education and also with pastoral support. The School also operates a drugs testing programme. In addition, the School has the right to authorise the use of sniffer dogs to search for illegal substances as part of its Drugs Policy. This may include searching pupils (in accordance with the Education Act 2011), personal belongings, the boarding houses and the estate.

2 Policy Aims

The aims of the School's drugs policy are:

- To provide clear information about the law and School rules relating to drugs.
- To make it clear to pupils and parents the consequences of any breach of the rules on drugs and/or substance abuse.
- To provide accurate information relating to drugs and the dangers involved.
- To enable pupils to make sensible decisions and informed choices.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support if guidance is needed.



3 Education

We seek to achieve these aims through a whole School approach to drugs education, which is principally based on delivery via the PSRE programme, but also in other contexts (including School Assemblies and House Assemblies). Support and guidance is also available through the School's Medical Centre.

Informative websites for parents and pupils include:

- Talk to Frank (www.talktofrank.com)
- UK Rehab (www.uk-rehab.com)

Useful links for further national groups can be found on www.turning-point.co.uk/services/drug-and-alcohol-support/useful-links

4 Sanctions

Any pupil involved in the consumption, supply or possession of drugs or in acts of substance abuse will be treated as a very serious offence and will be subject to the School's Disciplinary Procedure. Pupil's and may expect to be permanently excluded. Involvement with hard drugs or the supplying/distributing/providing of drugs, are considered to be aggravating features of the standard offence. For less serious offences, the Head may decide to suspend the pupil from School, possibly for a relatively long period of time, and subsequently readmit them back into School after enrolling them on the School's Drugs Testing Programme.

5 Drugs Testing

Certain pupils are enrolled on the School's Drugs Testing Programme. These pupils will include those readmitted to the School in circumstances outlined above and will also include certain other pupils about whom there are pastoral concerns.

Furthermore, the School may require any pupil about whom there are suspicions of involvement in a drugs related incident or drug taking (whether onsite or offsite) to submit to drugs testing, as outlined in the Terms and Conditions of the School. Drugs testing may be undertaken without the knowledge of parents/guardian. The Illegal Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy has been adopted with the aim of safeguarding the health and safety of all pupils.

This document should be read in conjunction with:

- Bryanston School Rules and Regulations
- Bryanston School Behaviour Policy
- Bryanston School Search and Confiscation Policy

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Reviewer: Deputy Head (Pupil Development)

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