



## **Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy and Statement (students)**

Date Agreed by the Governing Body	10 June 2023
Date to be reviewed	March 2026
Date of last review	June 2023
Governors Committee accountable for review	Education
Senior Leadership Team member accountable for review	ISW

## Introduction

Young people face growing pressures to use or experiment with controlled drugs, alcohol and other substances. Our purpose at the RGS is to do all we can to reduce these pressures, to educate children about the risks of substance abuse and to maintain an environment that is as free as we can make it of controlled drugs and the paraphernalia, culture and temptation to use drugs and other harmful substances.

As press coverage attests, controlled drugs, alcohol, vapes and other substances are widely available nationally and are used by an increasing number of young people. It is clear that young people are as vulnerable in High Wycombe as anywhere else. We consider that this is a problem which must be faced squarely both at School and at home.

## Policy Aims

- To provide an ethical regime which supports our Education Programme.
- To help develop in each of our pupils, the moral courage to reject a culture that may be harmful to their health, safety, integrity, independence, opportunities and respect for the law.
- To maintain the integrity of the School community and to provide support for those who might otherwise be tempted to take risks or experiment with drugs.
- To ensure compliance with the criminal law under which it is an offence for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs or for the School to allow its premises to be used for those purposes.
- To provide a firm and fair disciplinary framework for dealing with pupils who bring drugs into School and use or tempt others to use them at or away from school premises.

NB The policy applies whenever the School is in *loco parentis* including School trips.

## Educational Aspects

- The programme of education for pupils will be complemented by regular in-service training of staff.
- The education of pupils about drugs and other substance abuse is delivered primarily through the School's Personal, Social and Health Education Programme with an input by Biology and Psychology teachers into the physiological and psychological aspects. Outside agencies are also invited into the Royal Grammar School to give specific presentations within the field of drug education. The Royal Grammar School will at times use the Drug Detection Dogs Team to educate the students and search the premises, students and bags.

## Advisory Aspects

- Our policy at the Royal Grammar School is to encourage pupils to discuss their anxieties about drugs or substances in confidence with a member of staff or other responsible adult.
- Parents likewise are encouraged to approach any member of staff if they have any reason to think that their son may have been involved with drugs or other substances. It is important that parents who seek advice for their children should not feel they have a conflict of interests in this respect.

## Investigation

- The School will investigate any information received about involvement with drugs, alcohol, vapes or illegal substances on the school premises or whenever the school is in *loco parentis*. The investigation may involve segregating a pupil for no longer than necessary; asking them to give a written account of particular circumstances; searching their locker or personal belongings (including electronic devices) and taking possession of property for analysis. Investigations will be conducted fairly and with due regard to the dignity of the pupil concerned. Interviews will normally be conducted by a member of the Senior Team and the Head of Year. Parents will be kept informed and involved so far as is reasonably practicable.

## The Handling and Disposal of Confiscated Material

Any illegal substance or suspected illegal substance will be confiscated. In the presence of a senior member of staff the Headmaster will place it in a sealed container and store it in a secure location. A witness statement will be signed to this effect. The Headmaster will contact the Police and arrange for the analysis and disposal of the substance, obtaining a signed receipt from the Police where possible

**Policy and Sanctions**

If any student brings onto school premises or is found in possession of illegal substances while on the school premises or under the authority of the School (outings, visits, etc.) they can expect to be permanently excluded from School in line with the School's Behaviour Chart

## A Statement on Drugs and Illegal Substances

### Read to School for Start of Term

- This School believes, as I do, that in the environment in which we all live, you need to have a sound knowledge of the 'abuse substances': Drugs, alcohol, vapes, tobacco, solvents and other legal highs. Many departments within the School are responsible for dealing with these topics. We have a duty to inform and deliver accurate and detailed information in the form of drug education, lifestyle choices and ethical considerations.
- Increasingly you are the target of a powerful and persuasive drug marketing sub-culture. We recognise that you may well become exposed to these substances outside of School and need to make informed choices.
- I hope you will be intelligent enough and have the moral courage to say NO.
- Indeed I hope and expect you will be strong enough to help others weaker than you, in making this choice.
- The School, in common with all Schools, has always made clear its determined stand against drugs.

**If any student brings onto school premises or is found in possession of illegal substances while on the school premises or under the authority of the school (outings, visits, etc) they can expect to be permanently excluded from school.**

- We expect the highest standards from you at all times. We will also be here to act in a caring manner if you have problems. If you have any problems away from School, or any genuine concerns regarding drugs, do talk it through with a responsible adult. This may be your family, your friends, your Form Tutor, your Year Head, the Matron, a Deputy Head, the Headmaster or any of the staff.

**P Wayne**  
**Headmaster**

**I Wilson**  
**Deputy Headmaster**