

## WINCHESTER COLLEGE

### **ILLEGAL DRUGS & HARMFUL SUBSTANCES**

Implementation Date	6 February 2011
Review Date	14 August 2022
Next Review Date	June 2025
Author	2M
<i>Approved</i>	<i>SMC 14 March 2018</i>

Substantial education about drugs and harmful substances is included in the School's PSHEE programme for pupils in all years.

Our School Rule is very clear: *Use, possession or supply of illegal drugs, or other harmful substances, especially those of a psychoactive character, or equipment associated with the use of such substances, renders a pupil liable to immediate permanent exclusion.* The School will investigate any allegation about a pupil being involved with drugs. We will inform parents as soon as possible and work with the Police as appropriate.

We ask all new parents to sign a form permitting the School to test their child(ren) for drugs. We solicit this agreement in order to be able to administer a test speedily when we have reasonable grounds for suspicion. We will always communicate with parents as soon as possible in such a situation. The School conducts a variety of tests which may include, and are not limited to, hair, urine and swab tests. A positive drugs test outcome is considered conclusive evidence of use.

Any pupil who refuses to co-operate in testing in any way will be deemed to have failed their drugs test – this includes pupils who cut their hair very short or who dye their hair making it impossible to gain a hair sample.

In certain disciplinary cases of a serious nature (but not involving drugs), such as prolonged failure to attend lessons or produce work, uncontrolled behaviour and the like, the Headmaster may impose a programme of drug testing as a condition of probation.

Parents are billed for the costs of tests.

The School may also exercise the right to search a pupil, their room/desk/locker or their possessions (See Search and Confiscation Policy). School buildings may be subject to random drugs searching, including the use of trained dogs.

This policy is designed to secure and promote the safety, health and well-being of all the pupils in the school.