CHARTERHOUSE

DRUGS POLICY

Author: EFP | **Lead**: DH (Pastoral)| **Last reviewed**: September 2026 | **Next Review**: September 2027

OVERVIEW STATEMENT

For the purposes of this policy, 'drug' means a substance which "when taken into the body, alters the body's function physically and / or psychologically" (https://drugaware.com.au/). Separate policies on alcohol and smoking, vaping and nicotine products deal with those matters in more detail.

The Charterhouse Drugs Policy seeks by education and deterrence to prevent misuse of drugs by pupils. Drugs covered by this policy include:

- *Over-the-counter or prescription medication (including all Controlled Drugs)*
- *Legal drugs when misused, including volatile substances*
- *Performance-enhancing drugs*
- *New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)*
- *All Class A, B and C drugs under UK law.*

The School reserves the right to inform the police where it reasonably suspects that the law has been broken.

The School is committed to working closely with outside agencies to safeguard children individually and collectively. Surrey Police is committed to avoiding the criminalisation of young people where possible, including referral to the specialist counselling charity 'Catch 22' or similar private services where appropriate.

The School also reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur.

EDUCATION

Education on harmful substances is an important part of the School's PSHE curriculum. Training for staff is also provided. In addition, there are talks for parents with the opportunity for parents to engage with senior pastoral staff and specialist speakers.

DETECTION AND DETERRENCE

The testing procedure exists to deter pupils from misusing drugs, to identify pupils who have misused drugs and to clear those who have been incorrectly suspected of misusing drugs.

Pupils who by their behaviour or their associations, give reasonable cause for suspicion that they might be misusing drugs will be required to take a drugs test. Such cause includes but is not limited to:

- being found in possession of drugs or their paraphernalia;
- persistently poor work or discipline;
- a marked change in attitude;
- association with those found to be misusing drugs;

- unusual, erratic or antisocial behaviour;
- concerns expressed by pupils' parents;
- vaping concerns.

These tests must be authorised by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) or Principal Deputy Head.

It is a condition of entry that parents of all those joining the School subscribe to this policy. The School will inform parents as soon as possible that a test has been carried out.

The drugs test will typically be via a urine sample. However, in certain circumstances other appropriate tests may be conducted.

Refusal to take a test will be treated as if the test had been performed and had proved positive.

CONSEQUENCES

Pupils who sell drugs, distribute them, or facilitate others' use of them, forfeit their place at the School.

Pupils who are found to have taken drugs and / or test positive forfeit their right to remain in the School. However, at the sole discretion of the Head, they may be allowed to re-enter the School where he is satisfied that there are relevant mitigating circumstances, and where pupils agree to submit to a regime of frequent mandatory testing for the remainder of their career in the School. They will also be offered appropriate counselling and support.

Where drug misuse occurs

i. on the School's premises or

ii. under the School's jurisdiction (for example, on School trips or away at sports matches) or

iii. when a pupil is under the influence of drugs in these situations

the School will always deal with the case as a disciplinary matter.

Where drug misuse occurs in other situations, this policy shall apply to pupils at all times and places including out of school hours and off-school premises in circumstances where failing to apply this policy may:

- affect the health, safety or well-being of a member of the School community or a member of the public;
- have repercussions for the orderly running of the School; or
- bring the School into disrepute.

With regard to disciplinary consequences, account will be taken of whether the pupil has voluntarily sought help from the Hunt Health Centre in connection with their drug misuse or been referred for treatment and support outside of School. In such situations, provided that the circumstances are genuine, the matter will not be dealt with as a disciplinary issue, unless an investigation is already under way and provided that the case has not:

i. included supply to others or facilitating others' use or

ii. taken place under the School's jurisdiction or on the School's premises (as above).

This does not preclude any disciplinary response at a later stage if the circumstances of the misuse are found to be materially different from pupils' initial accounts.

In all circumstances, however, even when there have to be disciplinary consequences, the School will always take a pastoral approach to supporting a pupil with rehabilitation. This will include counselling and ongoing testing on the Random Drug Testing programme.

Any relapse will result in a pupil being required to leave the School.

In cases where a pupil remains at the School following a drugs offence, they must participate in a programme of frequent mandatory tests, administered in accordance with established procedures, for the remainder of their time at School.

If a pupil fails any such test, they will be required to leave the School immediately.