



DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE POLICY

Related Policies:

- **Behaviour Policy and Discipline Procedure**
- **Exclusion Policy**

Date: 13th June 2011

Date for Review: November 2013

DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE BY PUPILS

STATEMENT OF POLICY

For the purposes of this statement of policy “drug abuse” includes supplying, taking or encouraging others to take prohibited drugs anywhere on the school premises, while travelling to or from school, and on any school trip or outing organized by the school.

1. Drug abuse is held to be incompatible with continued membership of the school.
2. Where drug abuse is established the school will try, through a programme of confidential and supportive meetings with a member of staff, to help the pupil concerned to give up the drug abuse within an agreed period.
3. If, at the end of such a programme, the drug abuse has not been ended, the pupil may be asked to leave the school.
4. Unless special circumstances exist, parents or guardians are notified as soon as drug abuse is established with a view to securing their cooperation in the programme.
5. The pupil may also be required to consult with competent persons other than members of staff (e.g. school doctor or other specialists).
6. It may be that drug abuse which occurs in places other than those listed above will have a damaging effect on a pupil’s ability to learn or behave in an acceptable way: in such a case the same procedures will apply.

EDUCATION

As part of its drug and alcohol abuse policy, Canterbury Steiner School seeks to meaningfully tackle the issues and inform pupils of the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol in a variety of ways:

- In Class 7, the effects of drugs and alcohol are discussed as part of the Nutrition and Hygiene main lessons. The effects are also studied as part of the Science lessons in Upper School.
- Ex-addicts, police officers and agency workers come to the School to give drugs and alcohol talks and to hold discussions.

SEARCHING PUPILS

Under the Education Bill 2010-2011, school staff have the right to search pupils they suspect are in possession of drugs or alcohol, including so-called ‘legal high’ party drugs. These powers cover searches in school and on authorised school activities elsewhere, including school trips.

PROCEDURES

LOWER SCHOOL

1. If, after consultation with colleagues, the Class Teacher feels there is evidence or strong suspicion of drug abuse as defined in the school's Statement of Policy, parents will be invited to an initial discussion with the Class Teacher. Other colleagues may be invited to attend. The College Chair and Administrator are informed before the meeting is set up.
2. If, at this meeting, it is thought appropriate the child concerned may then be interviewed in the presence of one or both parents.
3. If drug abuse is established the Class Teacher will with the parents' consent set up a programme of supportive regular meetings with the child the aim of which will be to monitor progress, within a defined period, towards the total cessation of drug abuse.
4. As part of this process, the child may be required by the school to meet with the school doctor and any other competent person.
5. The child may request that a teacher other than their Class Teacher take on the role of support and monitor as outlined in 3.
6. If at the end of the programme the drug abuse has not ceased, the support teacher, after consultation with the College Chair, the Administrator and if possible the School Doctor can recommend to the College that the child be asked to leave the school; alternatively another support programme may be set up, either by the support teacher, or, after referral to the College, by the College.
7. If parents refuse to give their consent either to an interview (2 above) or to setting up a support programme (3 above) the situation will be reviewed at the next Lower School meeting which will make recommendations to the College.

IN THE UPPER SCHOOL

1. If in the opinion of the Upper School meeting or its delegated teacher(s) there is sufficient evidence or information linking a pupil to drug abuse as defined in the Statement of Policy, he or she will be interviewed by (normally) an Upper School teacher. The College Chair and School Administrator will be informed.
2. Where drug abuse is confirmed, the school's policy on drug taking will be brought to the pupil's attention, that is, that drug abuse is incompatible with continued membership of the Upper School.
3. The pupil will be invited to enter into an agreement with the school as a pre-condition for staying on. He/she will be asked to liaise closely with a given teacher chosen by the pupil from a list of teachers available and prepared to offer support in this area.
4. Specifically the pupil will undertake:
 - (i) To cease taking drugs by a date agreed between him/her and the chosen teacher. In the unlikely event of this failing, the teacher(s) would normally consult the Discipline policy document.
 - (ii) To meet regularly with the teacher to review their progress
 - (iii) To be scrupulously honest in all exchanges with their support teacher
 - (iv) Not to handle drugs or encourage others to handle or use them.
5. At the end of the period agreed in 4(i) the situation will be reviewed; depending on what has been achieved, the Upper School Meeting may
 - a) Recommend to the College that the pupil leave the school

- b) Require him/her to renew the agreement (if necessary in modified form)
 - c) Allow him/her to continue in the class without further special arrangements.
6. Confidentiality: the content of all discussions between pupil and support teacher remains confidential, except that one other teacher is kept informed. The name of the pupil may be made known to the Upper School meeting and the Class Guardians.
 7. Information: in normal circumstances parents/guardians of pupils interviewed will be notified as soon as these procedures are initiated with the aim of securing parental co-operation throughout.
 8. If necessary, support teachers may, as a condition of the pupil staying at the school, require the pupil to consult with other persons or bodies within or outside the school.

APPEAL TO THE BOARD

If, following recommendations from the support teacher or Lower School meeting (in the case of a Lower School pupil) or from the Upper School meeting (in the case of an Upper School Pupil), the College decides to require a pupil to leave the school, an appeal may be made to the Board who will seek to ensure that the appropriate procedures have been followed in good faith.

After having received the letter of appeal from the parent, the Board will endeavour to deal with the matter within two weeks.

ALCOHOL STATEMENT

Alcohol may not be consumed on or brought onto the school premises, any public transport taking pupils to or from school, any school transport or any trip or outing arranged by the school, or while walking, cycling, etc. to and from school. If there are grounds for believing that pupil's consumption of alcohol, wherever the consumption takes place, may be affecting their behaviour in school or their ability to work, the school will adopt the procedures outlined above for dealing with Drug Abuse.