



## **POLICY 17**

# **DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES POLICY**

Policy reviewed by	Head of Prep, Senior Deputy Head, Health & Wellbeing
Governors' Committee	Education & Pastoral
Date reviewed	Michaelmas 2022
Next review date	Michaelmas 2025
Approval / Oversight	Oversight

# TRURO HIGH SCHOOL

## DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES

1. The School has a comprehensive programme of lessons and talks as part of the PSHE programme, which educate pupils about the dangers of drug taking.
2. This policy reflects a clear recognition that drugs are widely available and widely used by some teenagers and that this is a problem that must be faced squarely both at school and at home.
3. In this policy the term 'drug' or 'drugs' means any of the following singularly or in any combination:
  - Controlled drug or substance;
  - Prescription medication;
  - Substance resembling a drug;
  - The paraphernalia of drugs;
  - Substances commonly referred to as 'legal highs' and 'smart drugs';
  - Solvents.
4. The School has separate policies to cover smoking and alcohol.
5. It is the policy of Truro High School that it shall treat cases of the use of drugs by pupils that have not been prescribed as serious misconduct.
6. Pupils who distribute, sell or encourage others to use drugs can expect to be permanently excluded.
7. Pupils who use drugs can also expect to be permanently excluded. Although a pupil may be allowed to remain at the School if the Headmistress is satisfied that there are relevant mitigating circumstances and where the pupil agrees to submit to a supportive regime of regular random testing for the remainder of her career in the School. Any costs associated with this would be passed on to the parents.
8. Pupils who are allowed to remain at the School can expect to be temporarily excluded and will be offered appropriate counselling. Any costs associated with this would be passed on to the parents.
9. Pupils who are caught using drugs for a second time can expect to be permanently excluded.
10. No distinction is made between consumption in or out of school.
11. Consideration will be given to whether an incident needs to be referred to the Police. The final decision on this will rest with the Headmistress.
12. It is the responsibility of everyone within the school community to report any suspicions they may have about drug taking. Suspicions should be reported to the Headmistress or another member of the Senior Leadership Team.
13. If a teacher needs to remove substances, he/she must ensure that another member of staff is present as a witness. Substances should be sealed in plastic bags and the date, time and names of those present recorded. Substances are then stored in a secure location until the School receives instruction from the Police on the disposal of the substance. Please see also the School's Conducting a Search Policy.

- 14.** The School reserves the right to ask a pupil to submit to a drug test if there is sufficient suspicion. The test will be a urine sample and would be conducted by an appropriately qualified outside agency. The reasons for suspicion would include:
- Being found in possession of drugs;
  - A marked change of attitude to school life;
  - Persistent poor work or discipline;
  - Association with others involved with drugs;
  - Anti-social or erratic behaviour;
  - Parental, staff or another pupil concern;
  - Anything which the Headmistress deems to give a *prima facie* reason for suspicion.
- 15.** The testing procedure must be fair and accurate and it is important to stress at all times that a test can be as much proof of innocence as of guilt. Refusal to take a test will allow the School to draw certain inferences from that refusal.
- 16.** This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
  - Anti-bullying Policy
  - Behaviour Policy
  - Health and Safety Policy
  - Conducting a Search Policy
  - No Smoking Policy
  - Alcohol Policy
  - First Aid and Medical Provision Policy