



MILLFIELD

Policy on Drug Offences

This policy refers to illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy, heroin, crack/cocaine, LSD and mephedrone, the abuse of solvents, other substances taken specifically to change mood and/or behaviour (including so called 'legal highs') and the inappropriate use of prescribed drugs. There are separate policies on alcohol and tobacco. Pupils are not permitted to be involved with these drugs in any way whenever Millfield is *in loco parentis*. It may also apply to involvement with drugs outside school for example where the reputation of the school is affected, pupils have supplied drugs or where the Headmaster is satisfied that drug abuse away from school is having an effect on the pupil or others in school. This policy does not apply to prescribed medicines that are used in accordance with medical guidance. A willingness to allow their son or daughter to submit to a drug test is a condition of entry for all parents whose children join the School

In formulating our policy on drug abuse we have the following aims:

- to safeguard physical and mental health
- to ensure that young people are in a fit and proper state for education at Millfield
- to promote personal integrity, an ethical community and respect for the law
- to ensure compliance with criminal law

Millfield provides a planned drug education curriculum as part of PSE. Related health and peer pressure issues, as well as the legal aspects involved, are fully covered. We take great pains to inform pupils at all stages of their career here about the effects and consequences of drug abuse. The school co-operates with other agencies such as police, social services, health and drug agencies.

We encourage pupils to discuss any anxieties about drugs with their Houseparent initially. Parents are welcome to discuss any concerns that they have with Houseparents, Heads of Year or any senior member of staff.

If pupils wish to have a confidential discussion about matters relating to drugs, they should see the School Doctor, the Counsellor or the Chaplain. Details of a national drugs helpline are published in the diary and on noticeboards.

Involvement with drugs could include possession of drugs, use, supplying, dealing, possession of the paraphernalia of drugs or overt support for the drug culture. Millfield will always take action if there is reasonable suspicion that pupils are involved with drugs. Reasonable suspicion would include any indication of drug abuse as well as,

association with pupils who are known to have used drugs, rumour or complaint from a third party.

If a pupil is suspected of involvement with drugs, their Houseparent or Head of Year will interview them initially. If there are reasonable grounds for suspicion Deputy Headmaster may decide to instigate a drug test or to suspend them pending the Headmaster's further consideration. If pupils are found in possession of illegal drugs, or admit to having taken such drugs they will normally be required to leave. If they have shared or sold drugs (as defined in the first paragraph), they can expect to be expelled from Millfield.

A search of the pupil's personal property may be undertaken. We consider that such a search is for the purpose of 'safeguarding or promoting a child's welfare' under section 3 (5) of the Children Act 1989.

It is stated in the contract that School has the right, if there are grounds for suspicion, to require pupils to undergo a test, or tests, for drug abuse. The tests are of two kinds: a simple swab test which yields immediate results and a urine test which is sent to a medical laboratory for more detailed analysis. The type of test will be determined by the Deputy Headmaster according to the circumstances. A positive swab test may be followed by a urine test. A clear procedure for the administration of these tests has been agreed, details of which are available to any parent on request. The pupil's parent or guardian will be informed.

The Headmaster may decide to involve the police who, if necessary, will be invited to interview the pupil at School in the presence of his/her parent or Houseparent.