



SHERBORNE



SHERBORNE
INTERNATIONAL

PROHIBITED DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY - SHERBORNE SHORT COURSES

Originally written by Deputy Head Pastoral, September 2023;

Adapted by Compliance and Operations Manager and approved by the Director of Short Courses: November 2023

Next Review: November 2024

This policy should be read in conjunction with other School policies:

- Smoking and Vaping Policy
- Alcohol Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Procedure for Conducting a Search

1. General Statement of Policy

- 1.1 Sherborne School/Sherborne International tolerates neither the misuse of drugs and alcohol by members of the School nor the supply of such substances to others. These substances include illegal and controlled drugs, as well as 'legal' psychoactive substances, performance-enhancing drugs, glue, and other substances possessed or supplied for purposes of abuse.
- 1.2 Sherborne School is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.
- 1.3 Sherborne School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people through formal education and the School's general ethos; it will seek to provide the support students need to avoid the problems and consequences of substance abuse.

2. Policy aims

- 2.1 Sherborne School believes in and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substance use and misuse and of the use and misuse of alcohol:
 - to enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practising good decision-making skills
 - to provide accurate information about substances and alcohol misuse
 - to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse
 - to widen understanding about related health and social issues
 - to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

2.2 These aims are fulfilled through lessons and assemblies and as opportunities to do so arise.

3. Prohibited drugs

The School rules state that the consequence of supplying prohibited drugs (as defined in section 1.1 of this policy) will normally be expulsion. Any student found using or possessing such drugs is likely to be asked to leave the Short Courses.

3.1 Drugs and Substances

- I. These expressions refer to the possession, use and supply of controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, including vaping or e-cigarette equipment and substances intended to resemble drugs, and to 'legal' psychoactive substances, performance enhancing drugs, glue and other substances possessed or supplied for purposes of abuse.
- II. Allegations about a student being involved with drugs will be investigated by their Head of House or the Director of Short Courses. The parents of the student will be informed of the outcome of the investigation as soon as possible. There is no statutory requirement to report drug incidents to the police, and the local police are generally content for us to handle such matters. They would, however, expect to be involved where there is an allegation of drug pushing or dealing, or where Class A drugs (including Ecstasy) are involved; they would also assist in an investigation if asked to do so.
- III. Where there are allegations or suspicions about a student's alleged involvement with drugs or other illicit substances, a test may be required following consultation between the Director of Short Courses and the Bursar or Headmaster. Wherever possible, the student's parents will be informed by telephone before a test is conducted. If the test proves negative, the cost will be borne by the School; where positive, the cost will be the responsibility of the student's parents.
- IV. The School's Behaviour Management Policy states sanctions as follows:
 - any student selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others must expect to be asked to leave the Short Courses with immediate effect
 - any student possessing or under the influence of drugs may also be asked to leave, subject to any mitigating factors.
 - where there are mitigating circumstances, they will be carefully considered.
- V. If the only firm evidence that a student has been involved with illegal drugs is a positive test, the student may be allowed to stay in School subject to individual sanctions or further terms and conditions.
- VI. Any subsequent offence, including a positive test result, will almost certainly result in the student being asked to leave the School. Clemency will only be given where it is deemed to be merited.

4. Testing for drugs – procedure

4.1 *Test* - If there is reason to suspect that a student has been involved with drugs or substances, s/he may be asked to undergo a test for analysis.

4.2 *Reason to suspect* use of illegal drugs may arise because of information received or a complaint or because of a student's behaviour.

4.3 *Informed Consent* - The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the student rather than the parents, even if the student is under 16 years of age, provided s/he is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives informed consent in writing.

4.4 *Notifying Parents* - Reasonable steps will be taken to notify a parent/agent, guardian, or educational guardian of the requirement for a test, before the sample is taken.

4.5 *Refusal* - If a student refuses to provide a sample, s/he will be asked to say why s/he has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from the response to that question and the police may be informed. Refusal to provide a sample, or deliberate attempts to provide a misleading sample, will be treated as a disciplinary issue.

4.6 *Testing Procedures* will be in accordance with standard good practice:

- Care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the test is genuine and uncontaminated.
- The donor will be asked to sign a form which gives consent and signifies that s/he has been satisfied with the collection procedure.

4.7 *Substance and paraphernalia testing* – Unknown substances and potential drug paraphernalia, which includes vaping equipment, may be sent for testing by an external company, if there is reason to suspect that it may have been used or intended for the use of prohibited drugs or substances.

4.8 *Medical Record* - The outcome of the test, whether positive or negative, will not form part of the student's permanent medical record.

4.9 *Outcome*:

- Reasonable attempts will be made to notify a parent by telephone of the outcome of the test.
- If the result is positive, a second sample will be made available for independent analysis.

5. Subsequent Action

5.1 *Procedure* – The School will treat a positive test as evidence that the student has been using drugs. The student will then be suspended pending a decision on the appropriate sanction. The Director of Short Courses or Bursar or Headmaster will arrange a meeting at which:

- The student will be asked to attend with either their parents, or a member of the School staff chosen by the student.

- The evidence of the positive test and all other relevant evidence will be put to the student who will be invited to respond.
- The student's response will be heard and considered, and further enquiries will be made if necessary.
- The Director of Short Courses or Bursar or Headmaster will make a finding of fact based on the evidence and supported by reasons.

5.2 Sanction - If the decision of the Director of Short Courses or Bursar or Headmaster is that the student has been using drugs, the Director of Short Courses or Bursar or Headmaster will outline the range of sanctions being considered and will then hear mitigating circumstances before deciding on the appropriate sanction.