Kimbolton School
Cambridgeshire

DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Policy Owner: Senior Deputy Head
Governor Committee: People & Culture
Policy Summary Statement: This policy outlines Kimbolton School's approach to drugs and substance abuse.

Release Date:	September 2026
Review Date:	September 2027

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Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy

CONTENTS

PURPOSE 3
EDUCATION: 3
COUNSELLING: 3
DISCIPLE AND SANCTIONS: 3
a. Preventative Education 3
b. Counselling 3
c. Discipline 4
INVESTIGATION 4
POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS 4
SANCTIONS FOLLOWING MISUSE 4
CONFIDENTIALITY 5
APPEALS PROCEDURE 5

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PURPOSE

The aim of these guidelines is to clarify Kimbolton School's position on drugs and substance abuse and to foster co-operation between pupils, parents, staff and governors in tackling concerns if and when they arise. Kimbolton School's policy towards drugs is outlined below:

- ensures compliance with the law of the land where it is an offence for any person to use, supply or sell controlled drugs
- places education at the forefront, in encouraging an approach which helps pupils develop the moral courage to reject peer group pressures which may lead to experimentation with, and subsequently the use of, illegal substances
- aims to provide pupils with accurate information about drugs and other harmful substances and makes them aware of the consequences of substance misuse
- promotes a healthy lifestyle through informed judgements
- actively discourages the use of illegal drugs and treats cases of drug usage by pupils as serious misconduct which will be investigated, leading to the imposition of sanctions.

Kimbolton School's guidelines towards drug abuse falls into three sections:-

EDUCATION:

This is seen as the most important because it is concerned with prevention. Drugs education looks at the problem in the widest sense and looks at misuse of medicinal drugs as well as the misuse of alcohol, smoking and illegal substances (there is a separate policy regarding the smoking of tobacco).

COUNSELLING:

This is seen in the widest terms as an important support to those who have experimented or begun to have problems through involvement with drugs.

DISCIPLE AND SANCTIONS:

It must be emphasised that this is seen as a support to the above two sections rather than something which stands alone. It is concerned with help rather than punishment.

a. Preventative Education

There is a comprehensive and coherent programme of preventative education into the dangers of drug abuse. Primarily, this is part of the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) course but the topic is covered too in Science and in occasional lectures. 6th Form students will also have this topic covered in their Citizenship lectures. The Head of PSHE has the task of co-ordinating the overall treatment of the subject. A detailed syllabus of the PSHE programme is available.

b. Counselling

The occurrence of drug abuse is often a symptom of other psychological, emotional or spiritual needs and every effort is made to enable pupils to talk about these, either to someone in School or to the School Counsellor. Such counselling is confidential, unless there are issues of safety and welfare involved.

Within the School, Tutors, Housemasters/Housemistresses and the medical staff all have a special part to play. However, all members of staff have some pastoral responsibility and in this capacity may have the opportunity to counsel individuals who are, or have been, involved in some form of drug misuse or who are concerned about their friends.

c. Discipline

Any pupil of the School who is involved in drug misuse while under School discipline should expect to be dealt with severely. A pupil is deemed to be under School discipline both on and off the actual School premises and beyond the confines of the normal school day (including out-of-term time if appropriate), as drug misuse out-of-school can lead to impaired judgement and attitudinal problems within school.

INVESTIGATION

The School has a duty to exercise proper care, which includes teaching and support staff being alert to warning signs of drug or other abuse.

If any suspicion of misuse arises, it will be reported through the School's pastoral system (Tutor ➔ Hm ➔ Senior Deputy Head ➔ Headmaster). If it is confirmed that there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil may have been using illegal drugs, the Headmaster will initiate further investigation, which may result in a pupil undergoing a recognised drugs test.

The School will contact the pupil's parents to inform them of the situation at the earliest stage possible. Sampling and testing will be carried out in accordance with a legally defined procedure, details of which are available from the School. Consent to test effectively forms part of Kimbolton School's Parent Contract, under the Standard Terms and Conditions. Wherever humanly possible, parents/guardians will be informed on each occasion that a test is to be given.

POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS

When illegal drugs are found on a pupil or the school premises, staff will take temporary possession of the suspected substance. The substance will be placed into a suitable sealed container in the presence of a witness, usually the Headmaster. The Headmaster will inform the police and seek advice or destroy the substance *(it is not possible to retain the substance as this is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)*.

A pupil's property may be searched, in most cases in the pupil's presence. If a pupil refuses to allow a proper search, the DfE advise that the police should be requested to carry out the task.

SANCTIONS FOLLOWING MISUSE

If a pupil has taken illegal drugs, then the pupil may be allowed to remain at school as long as he/she agrees to:

a. undertake further guidance, counselling and support and
b. undergo further random testing during the remainder of his/her time at the school.

Further positive tests will almost always lead to expulsion. As will:

i) Being in possession of illegal drugs with intent to supply or
ii) encouraging others to partake in illegal drug taking,
will invariably lead to expulsion.

Bringing illegal drugs onto the school premises will, in most cases, be considered as i) or ii) above.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Records of drug testing will not be used for any other purpose and will be destroyed when the pupil concerned leaves the School.

APPEALS PROCEDURE

As per the *Parental Complaints Procedure* which has been disseminated to all parents.