

**PROCEDURE FOR DEALING WITH
THE POSSESSION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS
AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

BEECHWOOD DRUGS POLICY

It is important that all Beechwood parents and pupils read this policy and understand its consequences.

The Aim – The aim of this policy is to prevent Beechwood students from using drugs or being involved in them in any way. We aim to ensure that Beechwood remains a healthy, safe and drug free environment.

The Policy – Beechwood forbids the use of drugs, substances that alter behaviour(s), e.g., ‘legal highs’ and the supply of such substances. Through involvement with staff and parents, the pupils will be educated against the use of controlled substances. The School will consider all cases of substance abuse as serious misconduct liable to immediate permanent exclusion.

Implementation of the Policy –

- By informing and preparing Staff through regular and up-to-date training
- By educating pupils through their curriculum
- By helping, advising and supporting parents through the use of appropriate outside agencies
- By frequently reminding the students of the School’s disciplinary procedures as specified in the Beechwood Code
- Through assembly, outside speakers and other media
- By the application of these disciplinary procedures.

Disciplinary Procedures – These disciplinary procedures are based on the fact that the possession, use and distribution of recreational drugs is illegal; that the misuse of substances that alter behaviour are extremely dangerous to the person using them and, indeed to others. The disciplinary procedures set out in this policy also apply to the misuse of Prescription Drugs which is also illegal as stated in *The Medicines For Human Use Regulations (2005)* and *The Misuse of Drugs Act (1971)*.

- 1) Pupils found in possession of drugs will be brought before the Deputy Head and Headmaster immediately. The drugs will be confiscated and disposed of safely and according to legal advice. The Headmaster will exercise his discretion as to the appropriate sanction. Students who have been found either using or distributing illegal drugs in School can expect to be excluded. Pupils who are found to be in the presence of others using or distributing drugs can expect to be punished.
- 2) Pupils who are known to distribute drugs to Beechwood pupils or to others outside the School will be permanently excluded. The police will be informed of such activities.
- 3) The School reserves the right to drug test students who are suspected of being under the influence of drugs or other chemicals which adversely alter or affect behaviour. Parents will be informed and appropriate action will then follow.

Amended Sep 2016 DHM. To be reviewed Sep 2017