



MARLBOROUGH COLLEGE

College Policy on Drug Offences

Until 1991 expulsion from Marlborough College was the inevitable consequence of every drug offence, whatever the circumstances. That policy is clear and tough but does have significant disadvantages. It may encourage dishonesty. It does not allow a pupil to recognise that he or she has made a grave mistake and to strive to make amends for it within the Marlborough community. It does not allow the College to exercise clemency where it is merited, or give support and counselling to those who need it.

In 1991 the Council decided that from September 1992 it would be a condition of admission that parents, on behalf of pupils, accept the College's right to require a pupil to undergo biological sample tests for substance abuse. Any pupil can be required to give a urine or hair test, to test for the use of drugs or other substances at any time, without necessarily prior discussion with them of any involvement or contact with drugs. This "random" drug testing is used deterrently not punitively; this is explained to pupils via House Notice Boards (HNB's), Assemblies and at the time of testing. It is hoped that the knowledge of the likelihood of testing will act as a supportive framework and a deterrent from experimentation.

It should be noted that the College's definition of drugs includes not only those drugs which fall under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 but also those substances which are mis-used to create a so-called "legal high". These include

- Nitrous Oxide
- Ketamine
- Khat
- A kyl nitrates ("poppers")
- Volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour which can be inhaled)
- New psychoactive substances (NPS); other synthetic compounds which mimic the effects of illegal drugs
- Prescribed medication as well as controlled drugs

This is not an exhaustive list. In addition, performance enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, fall within the scope of this policy.

Anyone who is intoxicated in Sani can expect to be tested for the use of other drugs.

Our sanctions policy is as follows:

- i. any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will always be expelled;
- ii. anyone caught possessing or consuming or under the influence of illegal drugs while under the College's jurisdiction in term time loses any right to membership of the College and must expect to be expelled.

In some cases there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.

The Master has the right to inform the Police of the possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence.

- iii. If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with illegal drugs is a positive test, he or she may be allowed to stay in the College provided that he or she
 - a. gives a written assurance to the Master, and to his/her parents, that he/she will not become involved with illegal drugs again;
 - b. agrees to undergo tests for illegal substances at various times during his/her remaining school career.

The same undertakings will also be required of any pupil who may be allowed back after a first offence (see ii above) because of mitigating circumstances.

Any subsequent offence, including a positive test result, will always lead to expulsion.

Alongside our sanctions policy is a constructive educational programme of lectures and discussions on illegal drugs as well as other important health issues such as alcohol, tobacco, diet and exercise.

Author: Management Team

Where found: College Website, Parents' Handbook, House Notice Boards

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