



MAGDALEN COLLEGE SCHOOL

FOUNDED IN 1480
BY WILLIAM OF WAYNFLETE

Drugs and Alcohol Policy

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The School is committed to the health and welfare of all pupils and will take action to promote and safeguard pupils' wellbeing. The School accepts the responsibility it shares with parents for helping to educate pupils about the effects of the use, misuse and experimentation with drugs and alcohol as well as other harmful substances, including tobacco, so called legal highs or prescription drugs, and about the threats posed by these substances to present and future health and happiness.

Pupils and their parents need to recognise that a pupil who is involved with illegal drugs at school or during school activities should expect, in most cases, to be asked to leave the school.

This policy has been drafted with reference to the DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012) and the DfE's Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education guidance (July 2025 update).

Unless otherwise stated, drugs in this policy includes references to medicines (when not properly acquired (i.e. by prescription) or used), volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances, so called legal-highs, and other unauthorised substances.

1. Policy Aims

We believe that our drugs policy should be based on an educational programme which does not rely on prohibition alone, but is balanced and informative, emphasising the need for young people to make informed decisions for their own lives, and to act responsibly in so doing.

To this end we will:

- through the Liliun (PSHE) programme provide information about substances which may be misused, this information being relevant and appropriate to the age group concerned;
- through the Liliun programme promote understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- through the Liliun programme encourage greater understanding of the dangers posed by drugs to the well-being of pupils;
- communicate our policies and approach to drugs and alcohol to parents via School Mailings, the Parent Portal, Parental Talks, as well as group and individual meetings as appropriate; and

- ensure that the disciplinary rules of the school reflect the seriousness with which the school approaches potential problems in this area and with which it regards transgression of the law in this or other areas.

2. Alcohol

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol. Pupils are strictly prohibited from being intoxicated on school premises, or at any school events.

Pupils are strictly prohibited from consuming alcohol on school premises, and from bringing alcohol onto school premises or to school events or activities (on or off-site) for consumption or distribution.

The only exception to this is that sixth formers may be permitted, with prior agreement, to consume alcohol at designated school functions which take place on school premises provided it is done so responsibly, with food and under supervision by staff.

3. The role of the curriculum in drug education

The Lilium curriculum is necessarily broad and fundamentally positive. It should also equip pupils to understand potential dangers to their health - and in different ways at different stages of their personal development. The Deputy Head (Education Development) has responsibility for Lilium and therefore the delivery of drugs education at school. At Magdalen College School this takes the following form:

Junior School:

The Lilium curriculum in the Junior School covers teaching on drugs, alcohol and smoking, (including vaping). The content is taught within the Healthy Me puzzle piece of Jigsaw and is outlined below:

Drugs and Alcohol

J1 – Attitudes towards drugs, healthy and safe choices

J2 – Alcohol and vaping; smoking

J3 – Alcohol and vaping; alcohol and anti-social behaviour, smoking

J4 – How substances affect the body

Drugs education in the Junior School concentrates on the substances that can be found at home as well as on medical drugs. The aim is to educate the pupils in the safe and sensible

use of these substances and the harmful effects that this can have on that could arise from their misuse.

Senior School:

All year groups – The school attempts to help all pupils, over time, with drugs awareness teaching.

2nd Form - In Liliun lessons pupils are taught basic ideas about friendship, consent and safety. In Biology pupils are taught about diet and nutrition.

3rd Form – In Liliun lessons pupils are taught basic facts about healthy lifestyles, diet and nutrition,

L4th Form – In Biology lessons, pupils are taught in more detail about the effects of smoking on the body. In Liliun, smoking and alcohol are considered as part of the broader module on drugs. Smoking includes vaping, and the school rules prohibit smoking as well as vaping on school premises, in the streets, and in public places. Liliun includes definitions, classifications, psychological and physiological effects (both legal and illegal), and why people take drugs – including the use of drugs in sport. Pupils are also taught about how to access health advice and services; first aid; personal safety, including awareness of criminal exploitation.

U4th Form – In Liliun sessions, further work on risk taking, decision making and the hazards of drug use take place, including on the effect of alcohol and drugs on the capacity to consent.

5th Form – In Liliun lessons, pupils are taught about the effects of drugs at a biological level. They are also made aware of the health risks of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, and about the safer choices they can make.

Sixth Form – Pupils take part in workshops as part of induction. Further workshops, including group discussion, take place through the two years of Sixth Form. A drugs education talk is delivered to the U6th each year, as well as regular pastoral updates through tutors and the 6th form team. A series of U6 workshops prepares pupils for life after school, including risks and challenges around drugs and alcohol.

All of these arrangements are subject to alteration as we constantly review and develop our education delivery, with regard to applicable Department for Education guidance.

4. Partnership with parents

As a day school, effective partnership with, and support from, parents is key in addressing issues related to drugs.

The vast majority of alcohol and drugs episodes involving teenagers occur out of school in time and place (i.e., when children are the responsibility solely of their parents). It is hoped that the school's educational programme (outlined above) can provide support and reinforcement for parents in establishing guidelines for their sons' and daughters' behaviour out of school, alongside communication with parents including the provision of Parental Seminars as part of the Lilium Programme.

5. Working with the police and local advisory groups

If concerns are raised about a pupil's use of drugs or alcohol, or they are found to be in possession of these substances, the school will liaise with parents, and (where appropriate) children's services and/or the police, in accordance with the school's safeguarding policy.

If a pupil is found to be in possession of illegal drugs in school, the school will consult the police.

6. School rules

Pupils may be required to undergo drugs testing. A failure to undergo a drugs test when such a test is reasonably requested will be treated as a disciplinary issue in accordance with the School's Discipline, Exclusion and Required Removal Policy.

The nature and level of sanctions or restrictions applied in response to drug incidents will give due regard to all the circumstances of the case in accordance with our disciplinary policy and procedure. However, **bringing drugs on to the school premises or selling drugs is a very serious incident risking expulsion.** Any other involvement in drugs, in or out of school, may also bring into question the pupil's place at Magdalen College School. If, for whatever reason, a pupil is suspended as a result of drug-related concerns, then any reinstatement after such a suspension may be subject to acceptance by the pupil of drugs testing and (where appropriate) of undertakings by parents to monitor and restrict the social activities of the pupil. In such circumstances the pupil will be required to enter into an agreement with the School confirming their acceptance of drugs testing and the terms of that.

7. Investigations into drugs allegations

It is the responsibility of all pupils and teachers to report at once to the Master, or in her absence the Usher, allegations or suspicions of any breach of the school rules with regard to drugs. These will be investigated, normally by the Usher. Interviews will usually be conducted in the presence of a second adult. Statements will be taken from those suspected of a breach of the rules and a report will be written. Any enquiries and investigations will be conducted in a timely manner.

Parents of those being investigated will also be informed as soon as possible after the initial interview.

8. Guidance for staff

When a young person discloses substance misuse or possession, staff must inform the Master or Usher immediately.

When staff discover substances including alcohol, which are suspected to be harmful, illegal or deserving of investigation, they should always seek to inform the Master or Usher.

All staff should note the procedures whereby substances may be removed from either a place or a person:

- **Place** – if possible, remove the substance from where it was discovered in the presence of a witness. If this is not possible, do not leave the substance there while you enlist the support of a colleague or pupil as a witness. Continue with the procedure below.
- **Person** – every effort should first be made to secure the voluntary production of any unlawful substance. When receiving substances from a pupil, do so, if possible, in the presence of a witness. In the absence of a witness, do not put off receiving substances or, within the bounds of your professional discretion, removing a suspicious substance from a pupil's possession. If the pupil refuses point blank to hand over suspicious substances, the police may be called in to deal with the situation. Reasonable force will only be used only when searching for legally prohibited items under the Education Act 1996, and never to search for items banned only under the School Rules. Any decision to use reasonable force will be taken on a case-by-case basis, using no more force than is necessary and for the least amount of time, and with regard to de-escalation wherever possible.
- **Right to search** – full details are given in the Behaviour Management Policy. the Master, Bursar, Usher, Deputy Heads or (D)DSLs, or a member of staff (e.g. trip leader)

authorised by any of the aforementioned staff, may search a pupil and their possessions (for example bags, lockers or coats) if they have reasonable cause to believe they contain unlawful items such as illegal drugs. Ideally, this should be done in the presence of an adult witness. The School does not conduct intimate searches and only a pupil's outer clothing (for example coats, jackets, pullovers, hats, shoes, gloves and scarves) will be removed to facilitate a search, but a pupil will first be given the opportunity to 'empty their pockets' and to disclose anything that they should not have in School. Staff will advise pupils as appropriate that they reserve the right to call in the police to search them.

The following guidelines should be observed where possible:

- Remove the substance and record the time, place and circumstances when the substance came into your possession.
- Do not investigate the nature of the substance, but do record its approximate size and appearance.
- Where possible, have the recordings countersigned by a witness.
- Take the substance immediately to the Master or Usher or, in their absence, another senior member of staff. Do not keep the substance on your person or in a place of safe keeping; doing so may place you at risk.
- In the presence of the Master or Usher or, in their absence, another senior member of staff, place the substance in a suitable sealed container available from the Health Centre. The Master or Usher (or senior member of staff) plus any witness(es) and you, should sign and date the package. A report should be completed, recording the time, date and circumstances of the findings.
- The package should, in the first instance, be locked in the Bursar's safe, or other appropriate secure location.
- The Master or their representative will choose to arrange for the police to remove the substances from the premises.
- In the event of a discovery of any equipment associated with substance abuse, especially needles and syringes, pupils should not be allowed to handle such items. All equipment found must be handled by adults with utmost care. The school nurses must ensure that materials are placed in a secure and rigid container to await collection by the appropriate service.

- In the event of the discovery of alcohol, the Master or her representative will arrange for the secure keeping of the alcohol until it is either disposed of or returned to its legal owner.

9. Applicable policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's:

- School Rules
- Safeguarding Policy
- Health & Safety Policy
- Discipline, Exclusion and Required Removal Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Data Protection Policy