

Substance Abuse Policy

King's College London Mathematics
School

Monitoring and Review

Action	Name	Date	Role
Reviewed	Obehi Orukpe	28/02/2025	Assistant Head (PDBW)
Ratified	Education Committee	05/03/2025	Governors
Next review	Education Committee	Spring 2028	Governors

Statement of Aims

We understand that young people can be under great pressure to experiment with a wide range of illegal drugs substances and alcohol. We have a duty to ensure that our environment is a safe one and conducive learning environment for all our students and staff. Through this policy, King's College London Mathematics School (hereafter, KCLMS) aims to ensure our students are aware of the risks inherent in involvement with illegal drugs, substance and alcohol misuse and abuse through:

- Ensuring compliance with the criminal law.
- Helping develop in all our students the moral courage to reject anything that is potentially harmful to their health, integrity, independence, future prospects and respect for the law.
- Providing an environment in which all students and staff can work in safety, and which reflects the ethics discussed in our Personal Development programme and the values of KCLMS.
- Providing a framework for support and confidential counselling.
- Providing a clear and firm disciplinary framework for dealing with students who infringe the policy in any way.
- Protecting the reputation of KCLMS.

Terminology used in this Policy

- 1 "Drugs" means all illegal drugs, including the abuse of prescribed drugs.
- 2 "Involvement with drugs" means possession of, use of, supplying and dealing in drugs, substances that resemble drugs or the paraphernalia of drugs use.
- 3 "Substances" includes not only illegal drugs, but glues, aerosols and anything which, when abused, may damage the health and wellbeing of a student at KCLMS.
- 4 "Suspicion" means a reasonable suspicion on the part of the Head Teacher or AH PDBW.

Scope of Policy

Disciplinary measures will also be taken for conduct outside KCLMS which risks damaging KCLMS's reputation, or which leads to Police prosecution and conviction.

Educational Aspects

The school will always take a proactive approach to supporting students to make positive choices with regards to the use and misuse of illegal drugs, substances and alcohol. In part of doing so:

- 1 Students receive a thorough education about the risks involved in involvement with illegal drugs, substance abuse and alcohol abuse. This part of the curriculum is delivered primarily through the Personal Development programme, with support from relevant external agencies.
- 2 Members of staff receive training about illegal drugs, substance and alcohol misuse and abuse in order that they can respond appropriately to students seeking individual advice and recognise the warning signs of all the above.

Confidential Counselling Aspects

Where students would benefit from doing so:

- 1 Students are encouraged to discuss any anxieties about drugs, substance and alcohol misuse and abuse with appropriate members of staff, most likely their tutor or Lead Teacher in the first instance.
- 2 Students are able to self-refer, or teachers, or parent(s) and carer(s) may refer a student to the school's confidential counselling provision, where expert support is available for students currently abusing or at risk of abusing substances.
- 3 Parents / carers are invited to discuss drug-related issues on a confidential basis with the appropriate Lead Teacher and can refer their child for counselling, or to their GP, in order to gain further support where necessary.

Investigation

KCLMS will investigate any suspicion regarding a student's involvement with illegal drugs or substance abuse. The investigation may involve any or all of the following:

- Segregating the student or students concerned for no longer than is deemed necessary;
- Asking the student or students concerned questions;
- Questioning other KCLMS students;
- Requiring the student or students concerned to provide a written account of particular circumstances;
- Searching students or their possessions;
- Taking possession students' property for analysis.

Searching students will be carried out in line with '[Searching, screening and confiscation'](#) [Government guidance](#) (July 2022), which includes the statutory power of Head Teachers and staff authorised by them to search pupils or their possessions, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items include illegal drugs and alcohol.

Investigations will be conducted fairly and in accordance with natural justice. The student or students concerned will have access to a telephone, toilet, food and drink, and will not be left alone for long periods of time.

Investigations will normally be carried out by a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The student or students concerns may be accompanied at interviews by another member of staff at their request. Where possible, the search will be conducted by the member of staff with the same sex as the student.

Sources of information will not normally be disclosed for the sake of confidentiality, and to protect other students. Parents/carers will be kept informed in so far as is practical.

The member of staff may search the student's outer clothing, pockets, possessions, desk and lockers.

In the event a strip search is required, this will only be conducted by the Police and the Headteacher and Assistant Headteacher PDBW will need to consider the safeguarding and welfare of the student as by case-by-case bases. Parents/carers should be contacted as soon as possible.

Disciplinary Aspects

1. KCLMS will investigate thoroughly any suspicion regarding involvement with illegal drugs, substance or alcohol abuse. The procedure for such investigation is set out above.
2. In all situations where the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs is concerned, the Head Teacher, or in their absence the Assistant Head PDBW, will determine if it is appropriate to contact the police to conduct an investigation.
3. Under normal circumstances, any student who is found to have illegal drugs in his or her possession or to have supplied them to others during the school day (either on or off KCLMS premises or on KCLMS educational visits) will be permanently excluded.
4. Under normal circumstances, any student who is found to have consumed illegal substances or to be under the influence of illegal substances during the school day (either on or off KCLMS premises or on KCLMS educational visits) will be liable to permanent exclusion on first offence.
5. Under normal circumstances, any student who is found to have been under the influence of illegal drugs whilst at school will be permanently excluded.
6. Under normal circumstances, any student charged and convicted of having been involved in illegal drugs off the KCLMS premises will be permanently excluded.
7. Under normal circumstances, any student found in possession of alcohol (except where that alcohol has been determined to be a gift for a member of staff) or under the influence of alcohol on school premises, will be temporarily excluded.
8. Any student found to have brought the reputation of KCLMS into disrepute through being under the influence of alcohol whilst off the school premises will be dealt with through the behavior policy, with significant consequences: in the most serious cases, this may include permanent exclusion.
9. In all cases where permanent exclusion is the assumed outcome, the Head Teacher will consider the student's behavioural record when determining whether it is appropriate to avoid permanent exclusion.
10. Where it has been deemed appropriate by the Head Teacher to avoid permanent exclusion, a support program will be implemented, details of which will depend upon the nature of the abuse and support required.
11. Alternative sanctions, depending on the individual circumstances, and at the sole discretion of the Head Teacher after consultation with the Chair of Governors, may include temporary exclusion, removal of privileges and a serious or final warning.