

College Drugs Code

Code originally adopted by the Governing Body, MCR and JCR in Hilary Term 1988; re-endorsed by Governing Body, MCR and JCR in Hilary Term 1989. Under the law it is amongst other things a criminal offence to take, possess, manufacture, pass to others or sell drugs, or to be knowingly concerned in the management of premises where any of these things is done.

The Governing Body wishes its policy with regard to involvement with drugs to be clearly known and understood by junior members.

1. A Junior Member who becomes involved in taking, manufacturing, passing to others, or selling hard drugs (e.g. heroin, amphetamines, LSD, cocaine, 'crack', 'ecstasy', etc.) must expect to be expelled from the College. The reasons for this strict disciplinary line are:
 - (a) the taking of such drugs has a rapid and very serious effect upon academic study;
 - (b) because of the very high cost of hard drugs, taking them almost inevitably leads to selling them;
 - (c) the publicity to which drugs cases inevitably lead is harmful to a college corporately, and may reflect indirectly upon its individual members.
2. The Governing Body also takes a very serious view of involvement with so-called 'soft' drugs such as cannabis which, despite beliefs to the contrary, can have permanently deleterious effects on mental functions. The College also prohibits the use and/or distribution of legal intoxicants ('legal highs'). This includes but is not restricted to mephedrone, salvinorin A. Consumption and/or distribution of any compounds which might be deemed to have a deleterious effect on a student's academic life or well-being are strictly prohibited by the College. According to the circumstances of individual cases, the Governing Body would take firm disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.
3. The Governing Body wishes to stress the health risks of the abuse of drugs:
 - (a) although addiction to drugs is sometimes curable, it is commonly not; therapy is usually a prolonged and specialised matter;
 - (b) drug-taking may involve further health risks, e.g. exposure to infection with hepatitis and Aids and other diseases.
4. While the Governing Body believes that, in the interest of the College as a whole and of all its members, strict disciplinary actions are called for, it also recognises a pastoral duty towards individuals who might become involved with drugs. In pursuance of this pastoral duty, it would recommend one or other of the following courses of action to anyone with a drugs problem:
 - (a) they might seek medical help, either from the College doctor or another general practitioner or by direct self-referral to the Drugs Clinic at the Ley Community, 01865 373108, www.leycommunity.co.uk. The College doctor is, like other doctors, bound by the rules of medical confidentiality and will not inform the College authorities.
 - (b) they may seek help from the University Counselling Service:
Appointments with the Counsellor may be made by telephone or email at 3 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX, (2)70300, counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk
Nightline is a listening service run by students for students. The Nightline Centre is at 16 Wellington Square, (2)70270, and is open from 8 pm until 8 am every night during term and during the week immediately before and after each term.
Samaritans are a group of volunteers who offer a 24 hours confidential listening service especially for those who are despairing or suicidal. Ring Oxford 116123 any time or call at 60 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RB, 8 am to 10 pm.
 - (c) they may approach Thames Valley Police, tel: 101. This course of action might be appropriate for a person wishing, in the public interest, to assist with the conviction of drugs pushers; in such circumstances, the Police may be expected to maintain confidentiality.
 - (d) they may approach the Principal, or a tutor or officer of the College in confidence, bearing in mind that officer's responsibility to other members of the College which might impose some limit on the degree of confidentiality to be maintained.

Above all, the Governing Body advises all junior members, in their own and in the general interest, to keep clear of involvement with drugs in any shape or form.