

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **Policy on the use and abuse of illegal substances**

The Governors and Headmaster intend Queen Margaret's School to be and remain an environment free from illegal drugs and the 'culture' of drugs. Any breach of this policy is treated as a very serious breach of school discipline.

As part of the school's commitment to the welfare of pupils and in accordance with the duty of care owed to girls in a boarding environment the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate pupils on the consequences of drug use and abuse. Accordingly the school's Academic Extension Programme includes substance abuse, in addition to other aspects of health education such as smoking, alcohol, eating disorders, sex and sexuality, STDs etc. Outside speakers are invited into the school on a regular basis and are informed of the school's values before they address the girls.

### **Discipline**

The school has a duty to initiate searches of person, belongings, accommodation etc. if the Headmaster is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. The use of drug testing, random or otherwise is not sanctioned.

When a girl has been found in possession of or using solvents or illegal drugs she may expect to be excluded.

### **Smoking**

Smoking is not permitted within the school grounds or buildings by either staff or girls on any occasion, in or outside full term. It is an offence to be found in possession of matches, lighters, cigarettes etc.

During term time girls may not smoke off the school premises unless they are under the direct control of their parents at the time. (This will never include School trips, visits and special occasions.)

### **Alcohol**

Girls in Years I-V are not allowed to consume or possess alcohol. Sixth Formers are allowed to drink alcohol on site under staff supervision and off site on special occasions approved by the Housemistress.

See also School rules in the Calendar.

CMC/Sept 2010