

Belfast Royal Academy

per vias sapientiae



Drugs and Substance
Misuse Policy
September 2026

Title	Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy
Summary	Guidance for all stakeholders regarding: The ethos of the School regarding drugs.
Purpose	To ensure that all pupils, parents and staff are aware of the Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy and procedures for any incident involving drugs in the School.
Operational Date	September 2026
Next Review Date	August 2029
Author	Vice-Principal (Pastoral)

To be posted on School website	Yes
Date and version posted (if applicable)	September 2026

1. The Principal and the Board of Governors consider possession of non-prescription drugs by pupils while in School uniform, in School or at a School related function as a serious breach of School rules.
2. Possession of drugs as defined in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 is a criminal offence. Therefore, any pupil found in possession of drugs, as defined in the Act, will be reported to the police.
3. Irrespective of any measures taken by the police, the Principal will decide on the appropriate action in the first instance. The Principal may take any of the following measures; warning, suspension, or suspension pending consideration of exclusion.
4. In considering the consequence for any particular breach, the Principal will take into account the nature and gravity of the breach, the effect or potential effect of the breach on other pupils and any other relevant circumstances or information.
5. Any pupil who supplies drugs to another pupil will, in the first instance, be suspended from school, pending further consultation. If such a serious breach of School rules is confirmed, the pupil may expect to be excluded. The Principal will refer the matter to the Warden and the Suspension and Expulsion Committee of the Board of Governors.
6. The Suspension and Expulsion Committee, having considered the information put forward to them by the Principal will decide whether or not exclusion may be appropriate. In so doing it will ensure that before exclusion takes place there has been consultation between the Principal, the parent / guardian of the pupil, the Chief Executive / other authorised officer of Education Authority NI and the Warden in accordance with the regulations. Where exclusion is decided upon, the Principal shall immediately give written notification to the parent / guardian of that pupil of the right to appeal the decision to exclude the pupil, of the time limits set by Education Authority NI for lodging an appeal and of where the appeal may be lodged.
7. Pupils found to be in breach of School Rules as mentioned above will be expected to undergo a drugs awareness education programme / counselling.
8. No pupil will be admitted to the School from another school if he / she has committed an offence relating to drugs or has broken any of the rules set out above, unless the Principal receives written evidence from an appropriate authority that the pupil has fully participated in a recognised programme of drugs education / counselling.