



Statement of Policy Concerning Drugs

The Governing Body wishes its policy with regard to involvement with drugs to be clearly known to and understood by junior members. Students found using illegal drugs within the College or in College-owned accommodation will be subject to the provisions set out below. Students found using illegal drugs in another College or on University premises, or in a 'University context' (which includes University activity within or outside Oxford, whether academic, sporting, social, cultural, or other) will be referred to the Proctors.

- In the case of use of Class C drugs such as cannabis, the College, on the advice of the local police, will normally on the occasion of the first offence, issue a formal warning, together with such conditions (such as drugs counselling) as they think appropriate to enable the student to address the problem. A record will be made of such formal warnings. Disciplinary action (e.g. a fine) may be appropriate at this stage, depending on the circumstances. Further offences, or failure to address the problem, will lead to more serious disciplinary action.
- In the case of Class A and B drugs (e.g. heroin, amphetamine sulphate, LSD, cocaine, crack, ecstasy), the College will as a matter of policy report suspects to the local police, and will consider suspending the student while police and court proceedings take place. The University Statutes state that if a student has been convicted of a criminal offence of such seriousness that a term of imprisonment might have been imposed (whether or not such a sentence was in fact imposed upon the student member), then the Proctors may refer the case to the Disciplinary Court. The Disciplinary Court has the power to expel student members. The reasons for this strict disciplinary line are:
 - i) the taking of such drugs has a rapid and very serious effect upon academic study;
 - ii) the very high cost of hard drugs makes taking them lead almost inevitably to selling them;
 - iii) the publicity to which drugs cases inevitably lead is harmful to a college corporately, and may reflect indirectly upon its individual members.
- Students suspected of dealing in any drugs (including cannabis) can expect to be referred to the local police. Students should be aware that 'dealing' includes supplying drugs to others irrespective of whether payment is made. Suspension while police and court proceedings take place will be considered, and criminal convictions may be treated as indicated above.
- 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:

- i) they might seek medical help, either from the College doctor or another general practitioner. The College doctor is, like other doctors, bound by the rules of medical confidentiality and will not inform the College authorities.
 - ii) they may seek help from the College Tutor for Welfare or University Counselling Services (See the Welfare section of this document), or consult one of OUSU's Welfare Officers.
 - iii) self-referral to The Ley Community at Sandy Croft, Sandy Lane, Yarnton (tel: 01865 371777; email: sara.lewis@leycommunity.co.uk) could be considered. Free and confidential advice can be obtained from the Cranstoun Libra Project, 01865 723500 (205 Cowley Road), Talk to Frank (tel: 0300 123 6600; <http://www.talktofrank.com/>), or DrugWise (<http://www.drugwise.org.uk/>)
 - iv) it is open to them to 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 drug dealers; in such circumstances, the Police may be expected to maintain confidentiality.
- The Governing Body wishes to stress the health risks of the abuse of drugs:
 - i) although addiction to drugs is sometimes curable, it is commonly not; therapy is usually a prolonged and specialised matter;
 - ii) drug taking may involve further health risks, e.g. exposure to infection with hepatitis and AIDS and other diseases.

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.