



## **LANGLEY SENIOR SCHOOL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

Students' wellbeing is of paramount importance and Langley School is therefore committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment by delivering a clear, consistent moral framework. We aim to nurture an environment where good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish; this policy is designed with that in mind.

Langley strives to give our students the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances, whilst taking measures to keep the school community protected from such misuse.

### **DEFINITIONS**

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of 'drugs' and 'substances' and applies at all times, whether or not the student is in the care of the school.

"Drugs" and "Substances" means without limitation controlled drugs including for example cannabis, amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and LSD or substances intended to resemble drugs. It also means solvents, aerosols, performance-enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, mushrooms and other substances possessed or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse, including "legal high" substances (new psychoactive substances).

### **EDUCATION**

Through our extensive PHSE programme we aim to educate students about the potential short-term and long-term impacts on health from drug and substance abuse. This programme concentrates on teaching the importance of making healthy, informed choices. These teachings also include an ethical dimension, designed to help the students understand the importance of complying with the law.

### **THE SCHOOL'S STANCE**

Given the adverse effect that drugs and substances have on young people we intend to take a zero-tolerance approach and as such it is the School's policy that any student found to be possessing, supplying or dealing in drugs or substances in school or using them at school (including an obvious intention to do any of these things) must expect to be permanently excluded.

## **SUPPORT – DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME**

If a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user and asks for help, (or if their parents or friends ask for help on their behalf) we may (depending upon the circumstance) and at the discretion of the Headteacher, offer them the opportunity to reform their habit with the support of a drug testing programme and Counselling (at the parents' expense).

In these circumstances of 'Support', drug testing is organised by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) in conjunction with the School's Medical Centre. Full details of the arrangements will be sent to any parent or guardian.

If a pupil fails an initial drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance) or admits to drug use or substance abuse, they will only be allowed to remain at the school on condition that they submit to regular drug testing throughout their remaining time at the school, and on the clear understanding that they will be expelled immediately on failure of a drug test, or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way. Parents will be asked to agree to this random drug testing programme, a copy of this agreement is available at the end of this document.

## **INVESTIGATION OF POTENTIAL DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

We will investigate reports, complaints or observations made about a student's involvement in drugs and substances. These investigations could include questioning a pupil, requiring the pupil to take a drugs test (if appropriate) and searching the pupil where there is reasonable cause. Any search will be conducted in accordance with the guidance contained in the Department for Education document "Screening, Searching and Confiscation". Examples of reasonable cause might include implication in another drug related incident, admission or strong suspicion of misuse out of school, if there is a marked change of behaviour or attitude or a severe fall off in the quality of work. At this point we will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

### **1. Evidence of Misuse**

Any pupil who, while at school, or in the care of the school, is found to use, possess, supply or deal in drugs or substances, or demonstrates an obvious intention to do any of these things, must expect to be expelled from school (excluded permanently), regardless of whether or not the pupil is about to take public examinations.

If a pupil is in the company of another pupil or pupils who are caught using an illegal drug (or any substance that contravenes this Policy) the School reserves the right to deal with the matter as a breach of School discipline. This will be termed 'involvement with drugs by association.'

Where a pupil's use of a drug, or any substance that contravenes this Policy, is outside of term time and/or not on the school site, but affects their performance or behaviour at school, and/or brings the School's reputation into disrepute, they may expect to be expelled (permanently excluded) from the School. For the purposes of this Policy, 'term time' includes week-ends.

If a student confesses that they have been mis-using drugs/substances outside of school then the subsequent course of action taken by the School is at the discretion of the Headmaster and may involve 'Support' as detailed on page 2 of this document.

## **2. Searches for drugs and substances**

When undertaking searches, the School will follow the advice from the Department for Education contained with their publication 'Screening, Searching and Confiscation' or successor publications.

### ***Searching with consent***

School staff can search pupils for drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving consent. Formal written consent is not required from the pupil for this sort of search – it is enough for the teacher to ask the pupil to turn out their pockets or if the teacher can look in the pupil's bag or locker and for the pupil to agree.

### ***Searching without consent***

If a pupil refuses to give their consent to a search, they will be asked to say why they have refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from their response and general demeanour and the police may be informed. A pupil can be searched without consent if there are reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil is in possession of a prohibited item (drugs or substances). This must be done by the headteacher or a member of school staff authorised by the headteacher. The member of staff conducting the search must be the same sex as the pupil being searched; and there must be a witness (also a staff member) and, if at all possible, they should be the same sex as the pupil being searched. There is an exception to this rule. A member of staff may carry out a search of a pupil of the opposite sex and without a witness present, but only where they reasonably believe that there is a risk that serious harm will be caused to a person if they do not conduct the search immediately and where it is not reasonably practicable to summon another member of staff.

If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the School to investigate.

## **3. Suspicion of misuse**

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil is misusing drugs in (or out of) school, whether in term or holiday time, they must report the situation through the pupil's Head of Year or directly to the Deputy Head (Pastoral), who will decide, in consultation with medical staff, if further investigation is warranted.

If there is a reasonable suspicion of drug or substance abuse, then that pupil will be asked to undergo a drugs test. These suspicions may be raised because of:

- Changes in behaviour;
- Physical changes which act as a sign of abuse;
- Implication by word of mouth;
- Academic performance is significantly below expectation;
- Suspected involvement in a drug related incident.

The school will not conduct random drug testing, except under the circumstance outlined in the '**SUPPORT**' section mentioned above.

The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the pupil, rather than the parent, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age (provided that they are of sufficient maturity and that they fully understand the situation). In these circumstances, parents are not required to give consent for a drug test, but will normally be informed in advance of the test taking place. However, as timing could be of critical importance, this may not always be possible. In these circumstances' parents should be informed as soon as is reasonably possible, although the school will endeavour to contact parents in advance.

### **TESTING PROCEDURES**

All testing will be in line with good practice and will be taken under the supervision of the school's medical staff, although the relevant Head of Year or Deputy Head (Pastoral) should be present also. Medical staff will use a multi-panel drug test from Surescreen Diagnostics.

If a pupil refuses to provide a urine or other sample, they will be asked to say why they have refused and the school will be entitled to draw inferences from that response.

If a test result is 'positive', thereby indicating that the pupil has been involved in drug/substance abuse, action will be taken in accordance with the School's Pupil Behaviour Policy. A meeting will be arranged at which all relevant evidence, including the positive test result where applicable, will be put to the pupil and they will be invited to respond. At this point further investigations may be needed.

When the investigation has been concluded the headteacher will make a finding based on the facts gathered. If the headteacher's decision, after considering all the material evidence, is that the pupil has abused drugs or substances, the pupil can expect to be expelled (permanently excluded) in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy. If the test proves negative, any further sanctions will be dependent on the discretion of the headteacher.

The school will cover the cost of a first test if it is negative, otherwise the cost must be borne by the parents.

### **CONTACT WITH POLICE**

If a pupil is found to be in possession of an illegal drug or substance or if a pupil has taken an illegal drug or substance, the school will inform the Police of the pupil's name and home address. The school will inform parents prior to contacting the police, unless it deems it inappropriate to do so.

## **RECORDING**

All incidents of drug or substance abuse (or suspected abuse), including searches and testing should be recorded using the school's Incident Report Forms, a copy of which should be placed on the student's file.

## **PARENTS**

If parents attending school premises appear to be under the influence of drugs, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection/safeguarding. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs, the member of staff should report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the senior leadership team who may telephone the police. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's child protection procedures will be followed.



**RANDOM DRUGS TEST – AGREEMENT FORM**

I hereby give permission for Langley School to perform, at any time, a random drugs test on my son/daughter.

I accept that she will be subject to a multi-panel test.

STUDENT NAME: ..... DATE OF BIRTH: .....

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: .....

DATE OF SIGNATURE: .....

**If a parent/student refuses consent to testing, then the school will be entitled to draw inferences from that response.**