



## **DRUG AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **PURPOSE OF THE POLICY**

Pupil/students' wellbeing is of paramount importance and Langley is committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment by delivering a clear, consistent moral framework. Worryingly, we live in a society where illicit drugs are readily available and where our children are often under considerable pressure to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and drugs. The purpose of this policy is to deter pupils/students from using drugs, rather than to catch them out and force them to leave the school. Experience has shown that those parents whose children have been placed on the testing programme are usually very grateful because they know that for the remainder of their child's time at Langley, he or she is not using drugs.

### **DEFINITIONS**

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

"Drugs" means without limitation controlled drugs including Class A, B and C drugs. It also means solvents, aerosols, performance-enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, mushrooms, nitrous oxide and other substances possessed or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse, such as psychoactive substances.

### **EDUCATION**

Through our extensive PHSE programme we aim to educate pupils/students about the potential short-term and long-term impacts on health from drug abuse. We strive to give our pupils/students the understanding and self-confidence to reject drugs, whilst taking measures to keep the school community protected from such misuse. These teachings also include an ethical dimension, designed to help the students understand the importance of complying with the law.

### **SCHOOL RULES**

- If a pupil or student is found to have brought drugs onto the school site, then they can expect to be expelled.
- If a pupil or student is found to be supplying drugs to others, then they can expect to be expelled and the authorities informed.
- If a pupil or student has any involvement with Class A drugs, whether in school or out of school, then they can expect to be expelled and the authorities will be informed.
- If a pupil or student has taken a Class B or C drug, they will be suspended from school for a period of time determined by a Deputy Headmaster, or the Headmaster. They will only be allowed to return to school on the understanding that:
  - they will be placed on the School's 'Enhanced Drug Testing' programme (this will be carried out at least once a half term);

- if there is a subsequent positive test or if it is found out that the pupil or student has any further involvement with drugs, then they will be expelled from the School. Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to have the sample tested by an independent laboratory, at their own expense. The School will arrange the testing.
- If a pupil or student is in the company of another pupil or student 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’.

## **SUSPICION OF MISUSE**

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil or student is misusing drugs in, or out of, school, whether in term or holiday time, they must report the situation through the pupil’s or student’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 or student will be interviewed and 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 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 should be informed as soon as is reasonably possible after the event. If the test proves positive, then the School rules mentioned above will be applied accordingly.

A refusal by a pupil or student to undergo a test will be deemed as an admission of guilt and will be dealt with as if a test was returned positive.

If a pupil is found to have taken a prescribed drug that doesn’t belong to them, it will be viewed as a positive test. It is illegal to consume someone else’s prescribed drug and the police view this as a Class C offence.

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

## **SUPPORT - DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME**

If a pupil or student comes forward and voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user and asks for help, we will support that individual to help them to reform their habit. Under these circumstances the pupil or student will be entered into the School's 'Support Drug Testing' programme. As the pupil or student has sought help they will be supported, they will be offered the services of the School Counsellor or the 'Time to Talk' service as appropriate. The pupil or student will also be asked to take a drugs test at regular intervals, and should it be returned positive then the School rules will be applied as mentioned previously.

## **RANDOM DRUG TESTING PROGRAMME**

In order to protect the welfare and wellbeing of pupils and students, the School will conduct random drug testing of pupils and students. If the results of the test are positive, then the School rules will be applied as outlined earlier in this document.

## **CONTACT WITH POLICE AND EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

If a pupil or student 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 may inform the Police of the pupil's name and home address. If there is deemed to be a safeguarding concern, the School may also contact Norfolk Children's Services. If drugs are found on site, they will be logged and stored securely. The Police will be notified so they can come to the School and take the drugs away to be officially destroyed.

## **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 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.