



Drugs and Substance Misuse Policy

Introduction

It is an aim of The Leys School (the “School”) to educate pupils about the danger of drug and substance abuse. Our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme provides pupils with information and with advice, and outside speakers come to speak to the pupils on this issue. However, this educational approach must be re-enforced by a firm policy of discipline, if the individuals and the community are to be protected from these dangers. In certain cases, some counselling may be necessary, and the School will do all it can to help in this.

The School’s Child Protection (Safeguarding) Policy may be triggered in the event of a pupil suffering or being deemed likely to suffer significant harm as the result of drugs or other substance misuse. The School will also consider early help options, in consultation with parents, where circumstances warrant external help and support about prevention or responding to a particular issue or concern.

We hope that pupils will be sufficiently aware of the dangers to help their peers whom they suspect of involvement in drugs, new psychoactive substances (as defined below) and substance abuse, either by persuading them to seek help from an adult, or by sharing their concerns with an adult.

The School is committed to the health, safety, and wellbeing of all its pupils, staff and other members of the community and this policy is one way in which we safeguard their wellbeing.

Definitions

‘**Drugs**’ means illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (as defined below), volatile substances, tobacco, substances intended to resemble drugs, equipment and paraphernalia of drugs, controlled drugs, and any other unauthorised substances held or supplied in each case for the purposes of taking/consuming or misuse.

‘New psychoactive substances’ or ‘**NPS**’, formally known as “legal highs” or mind-altering substances, are synthetic substances with altered chemical compounds that produce similar effects to controlled drugs. They are designed to mimic the effect of illegal Drugs, are not always safe to use and often contain controlled Drugs making them illegal to possess. Often, they contain ingredients that have not been tested on humans and so the effects on human consumption are difficult to predict. NPS are now illegal under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

Possession means any items over which the pupil has or appears to have control – including but not limited to, their boarding house room, clothing, desks, lockers, and bags.

Supply means providing or sharing (whether for money or another benefit) or facilitation of supply.

Use means the taking/consumption of drugs or substances.

Purchasing, production, possession, supply, or use of Drugs

The School does not permit the purchasing, production, possession, supply, or use of Drugs either on or off School premises. This includes whilst on School trips and visits, whether in this country or



abroad and irrespective of whether or not the pupils are wearing School uniform at the time. This also applies to any time in which the School could be brought into disrepute whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the relevant time.

Awareness and Support

Our medical and pastoral staff play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved and medical staff will offer informed medical advice. Pupils can discuss their worries about drugs or substances with their Housemaster/mistress or a member of the pastoral team. They can also refer themselves to the medical staff and to a School counsellor for individual guidance. The School is very conscious of working together to promote the wellbeing of its pupils.

If a pupil is suspected of being under the influence of Drugs on School premises, the School will prioritise the safety of the pupil and those around them. Where necessary it will be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support.

Power to Perform Searches and Confiscation

If controlled Drugs are found in a pupil's Possession or in their property, the Drugs will be delivered to the Police as soon as reasonably practicable but may be disposed of if the member of staff considers there is a good reason not to deliver them to the police¹. The School will consider all relevant circumstances and staff will use their professional judgment to determine whether the School can safely dispose of the controlled drug. This would usually be in consultation with the Medical Centre staff.

Substances that are not believed to be controlled Drugs but are believed to be harmful or detrimental to good order or discipline may be confiscated by a member of staff and delivered to the police or disposed of as above. If the School is uncertain as to the legal status of a substance it will be treated as if it were controlled. Where illegal Drugs or potentially harmful substances are found, the School would normally inform the individual pupil's parents at this point, unless it is not in the best interests of the pupil to do so.

For more information on the School's power to perform searches, please refer to the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy and the DfE advice for schools 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022).

Sanctions

Anyone involved in buying, producing, selling, possessing, or using Drugs may forfeit their right to remain at the School. A serious breach, or persistent breaches, will result in a permanent exclusion or required removal from the School.

The School will:

- deal severely with those who may be supplying Drugs for abuse to others and/or encouraging others in Drug use;
- provide appropriate disincentives so that pupils may be discouraged from experimenting

¹ The School will have regard to the DfE and Association of Chief Police Officers drug advice for schools (2012): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>



further with Drugs;

- provide appropriate support for those who may have been involved in occasional Drug use including consideration of whether it may be a symptom of other problems. The School will work with parents and the pupil to access services to support the pupil and keep them safe.

If Drugs are found in School, or known to have been used in School, the Headmaster must be informed immediately.

Someone found, or suspected, to be in the possession of, and/or using Drugs, will usually be suspended immediately as a neutral act whilst an investigation takes place or awaiting an outcome.

In the case of someone found to have been producing, and/or, bringing Drugs into School, or selling Drugs to others, expulsion will be the normal punishment.

In the case of someone found to be using Drugs as a first offence, it may be possible to allow them to return to School after a period of Suspension if:

- they are committed to not using Drugs again; and
- they are prepared to undertake random testing;
- the Headmaster believes the offence was a one-off and out-of-character aberration.

The understanding would be that if this pupil undergoes a test which is positive or is otherwise found to have been taking Drugs on a further occasion, the pupil will be subject to a permanent exclusion or a required removal immediately.

Testing

Testing for use of Drugs may apply in two cases:

- 1) if there is clear and reasonable cause for suspicion that a pupil has been involved in Drugs, in which case they will be asked to consent to a test and given an opportunity to telephone a parent or guardian;
- 2) on a random basis for any pupil who has returned to School after a suspension for Drugs, and has signed a consent form, which has also been signed by their parents.

In both cases, the purpose of the testing is to dispel suspicion quickly and discreetly or to confirm the existence of a Drugs related problem. Full details of any testing arrangements will be sent to the parent or guardian.

The possibility that a pupil might be tested is intended as a supportive measure, to protect pupils from any pressure to experiment with Drugs. A copy of our procedures for testing is available on request.

If a pupil refuses to be tested, the Headmaster may draw an adverse inference that they have taken illegal Drugs.

Investigation

Any suspected, or confirmed, pupil involvement with Drugs will be followed up and investigated in accordance with this policy and the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

An investigation will be conducted under the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. This may involve testing (see above), searching (see above) and the pupil's parents will be informed as soon as it becomes clear that the pupil may face disciplinary action for a serious breach of discipline, unless



the School is prevented from informing parents on the instruction of police and/or the Local Authority, where applicable. The School's investigation may be suspended pending any police investigation.

Police involvement

The Headmaster will normally inform the Police of any evidence of possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal Drug since it could constitute a criminal offence. The Headmaster will have regard to the National Police Chiefs' Council 'When to call the police' guidance for Schools and Colleges in determining whether to make a report to the police. In practice, the Police are likely to leave the School to deal with minor offences.

Useful Advice and Support Services

Talk to FRANK if you need help with a Drug problem or advice about a friend or family member's Drug use: 0300 123 6600 (open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week) – email: frank@talktofrank.com, text 82111 or live chat (from 2pm to 6pm 7 days a week).

Addaction: website: www.addaction.org.uk, web chat Mon-Fri 10-4pm and 6pm -9pm, Sat-Sun 11-4pm.

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substances Abuse: 01785 817885, information line: 01785 810762 – email: c4r@re-solv.org, text or WhatsApp on 07496 959930 or live chat.

ADFAM offers information to families of Drug and alcohol users: 020 7553 7640 – email: admin@adfam.org.uk.

Related Policies

Behaviour and Discipline

Exclusion, Suspension and Required Removal Policy

No Smoking Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy