



LEWESTON

SHERBORNE

3.12 ANTI DRUGS AND SUBSTANCES POLICY

Introduction - Aim of the Policy

This policy aims to prevent the use of controlled drugs and other substances at Leweston by giving a clear warning to pupils, parents and staff on the severity with which drug and substance abuse and/or possession are viewed by the School. The policy also outlines the School's strategies to assist the pupils reject the use of drugs and substances as being entirely detrimental to every aspect of their well-being. In addition it outlines how drug related incidents are managed. There is also a section on the use of tobacco and alcohol in this policy.

Definition of the Terms 'Drugs and Substances'

This refers to controlled chemicals which, if taken, alter mental and/or physical states. This includes such things as ecstasy, cannabis and cocaine. It also covers chemicals which can be obtained over the counter at a chemist's shop, items such as performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied for purposes of misuse, Psychoactive Substances. Psychoactive Substances, previously described as 'Legal highs', are substances which produce similar effects to drugs such as cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy, and are now controlled under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. By law, a psychoactive substance is any substance which is *"capable of producing a psychoactive effect in a person who consumes it, and is not an exempted substance (controlled drugs, medicinal products, alcohol, nicotine and tobacco products, caffeine, and food)."*

For the purposes of the 2016 Act, *"a substance produces a psychoactive effect in a person if, by stimulating or depressing the person's central nervous system, it affects the person's mental functioning or emotional state."*

A person consumes a substance if they cause or allow *"the substance, or fumes given off by the substance, to enter the person's body in any way."*

For up-to-date information on all controlled substances please look at the following website <http://www.talktofrank.com/latest>

Application of the Policy

The Anti Drugs and Substances Policy applies to all pupils at all times whether or not they are in the care of the School. It also applies to members of staff.

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The Policy

The possession and use of drugs and substances and of the paraphernalia of drugs and substances are forbidden. The supplying to other pupils of drugs and substances and the paraphernalia of drugs and substances are also forbidden.

Testing for Drugs

The School reserves the right to test a pupil who is suspected of having taken drugs or abused substances.

Sanctions

Any breach of the Policy will result in a sanction being imposed.

The normal sanction in the case of a pupil who has deliberately brought drugs or substances onto the School premises or has supplied drugs, whether on or off the School premises, is permanent exclusion.

The possession or use of illegal substances by any adult employed by the School is gross misconduct.

A pupil who is found to have used drugs or who is in possession of drugs on or off the School premises must expect to be permanently excluded. However, depending on the circumstances, temporary exclusion may be applied. In the case of a repetition of the offence, permanent exclusion is the sanction imposed.

Confidentiality

Pupils are encouraged to talk to any member of staff about a drug related problem or incident. Matters brought to attention by a pupil or her parent before the School is aware of any misdemeanour will be exempt from disciplinary sanctions or adverse report. The welfare and pastoral care of the pupils are the central concern. However any pupil suspected of involvement with drugs or substances outside such a context will face the full disciplinary consequences.

Confidentiality in respect of pupils, however, remains conditional because there may be statutory obligation to take action, e.g. in the case of possession of a class A drug; staff are operating under a professional code with a duty of care towards all pupils. It is School policy that the Head must be informed of all drug related incidents.

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Reporting and Investigation

Every complaint or report of involvement with drugs and substances is put before the Head who undertakes preliminary investigation.

Parents or guardians will be notified as soon as practicable. Opportunities will be made for the parents of pupils found to be involved in substance abuse to obtain support and guidance concerning drugs.

If permanent exclusion in the form of expulsion is to be considered, then the Head will consult the Chair of Governors.

Parents will be informed that they have a right of appeal against exclusion.

Working with the local Police

In most cases procedure following a drug-related incident is likely to be a School, not a police matter.

It is, nevertheless, the policy of the School that the Head should always contact the local Police where an incident has involved illegal substances.

Drugs Education

Within the Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE), the Lower School Biology, and Year 9 Health Education programmes, the School provides a comprehensive drugs education curriculum for all pupils. The curriculum aims to provide all pupils with the knowledge, attitudes and skills to be able to make the right decisions about drugs. The curriculum is delivered by the PSHE and Biology staff, the Senior Nurse and outside speakers. It is reviewed each term. Throughout their School career pupils can expect to encounter drugs education topics on a regular and progressively more detailed level.

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