



St Laurence School Policy on Drug Related Incidents 2017

Introduction

The Governing Body is committed to promoting a safe environment free from the misuse of drugs. This policy is aligned to the five Every Child Matters outcomes (*stay safe, be healthy, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution, achieve economic well being*) and in particular to the school's Child Protection Policy and the Health and Safety Policy

This policy applies to:

- All illegal class A,B and C drugs
- Unauthorised drugs - the misuse of prescription and other pharmaceutical drugs.
- Other legal substances not authorised by the School including e.g. solvents, tobacco, alcohol and other drugs or chemicals.

The Governing Body is also committed to providing a framework for the management of drug related incidents involving students because episodes are sensitive and have implications beyond the School.

Strategy

The Governing Body has a separate drugs education policy which aims to pre-empt drug related incidents at the School. However the Governing Body also seeks to support staff in maintaining the School and its close proximity as a drugs free zone by applying sanctions as appropriate. The School is a smoke free site and as such complies with government legislation with effect from July 2007.

The Governing Body therefore supports the open publication of clear guidelines which are consistent with the document "DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools- Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies"

This policy is outlined in newsletters and assemblies on at least an annual basis to ensure widespread understanding among students and parents. Senior staff are expected to provide parents and students with access to medical and counselling support, review the provision of drugs education in School and maintain a dialogue with parents and the Police if these incidents occur. Students are reminded of the sanctions for possession or supply of an illegal or unauthorised drug in school at the start of Terms 1,3 and 5 by the D.S.L.

Guidelines

Drug related incidents are to be investigated against a background that:

- The School will use its rights to search student who is suspected of possession of drugs (illegal and unauthorised) in accordance with current legislation ("Screening, Searching and Confiscation: Advice for Headteachers, Staff and Governing Bodies (DoE: 2011), and advice.
- Any response to drug related incidents will include support as well as sanctions.
- Incidents may be differentiated according to whether the drug is illegal or unauthorised.
- Parents and the Police are to be involved, as appropriate, at the most practical and early point in any investigation.
- Written, signed and dated accounts will be taken from those involved, including any witnesses.
- Incidents may include possession, supply and 'under the influence' and maybe on, off and in close proximity to School.
- After appropriate investigation, decisions will be taken in accordance with the national guidelines above.

Approval: Community & Ethos
Review: January 2019



Response to Unauthorised Drugs

Incidents involving possession, supply and being under the influence of unauthorised drugs are managed by the Senior staff in accordance with the guidelines above and the School's Drugs Education and Behaviour Management policies.

Under the influence of illegal drugs

The Governing Body expects Senior staff to impose a sanction with reference to the guidelines above. Depending on the exact circumstances, the response is normally a minimum of 5 days fixed-term exclusion. The maximum, according to the nature of the drug/previous record/resulting behaviour will be a permanent exclusion or equivalent sanction.

Possession and consumption of illegal drugs

The Governing Body expects Senior staff to impose a sanction with reference to the guidelines above and in consideration of whether the suspect has also consumed the drug on or off site. Depending on the exact circumstances, the response is normally a minimum of 5 days fixed term exclusion. The maximum, according to the nature of the drug/quantity/previous record/resulting behaviour will be a permanent exclusion or equivalent sanction.

Supply of illegal drugs

The Governing Body expects the headteacher to impose the sanction of permanent exclusion or equivalent sanction on any student found to have supplied drugs on site or in close proximity to the School, whatever the nature of the drug/previous record/quantity/resulting behaviour.