HOLMWOOD HOUSE

DRUGS AND DRUG TESTING POLICY

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Holmwood House School, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We have age-related health education and PSHCE programmes that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol and tobacco, they concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. However, they also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the criminal law. Our programmes involve pupils in the Pre-Prep and continue throughout your child's time at the school. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHCE, science and drama lessons. We also have assemblies on the topic, talks from the Police and for Year 8, before pupils move into their senior schools, we invite specialist speakers for both the pupils and parents covering the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco.

Our school nurse plays an important role in maintaining awareness about the risks involved. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their parents and any member of staff as we are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the wellbeing of your son or daughter.

SUPPORT

In the unlikely event, given the age of our pupils, that a pupil comes forward and voluntarily identifies himself/herself as a drug user and asks for help, or if his/her parents or friends ask for help on his/her behalf, we may, depending upon the circumstances, and at the discretion of the Headmaster, offer him/her the opportunity to reform his/her habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling (at the parents' expense).

If a pupil fails his or her first drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance), he or she will only be allowed to remain at the school on condition that he or she submits to regular drug testing throughout his or her remaining time at the school, and on the clear

understanding that he or she will be expelled immediately on failure of a subsequent drug test, or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way.

INVESTIGATION

We will always investigate rumours about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil and searching his/her personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

SEARCHING AND CONFISCATING

The Headmaster and staff authorised by him have a statutory power to search pupils or their possessions, without consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the pupil may have a prohibited item. Prohibited items are:

- knives or weapons
- alcohol
- illegal drugs
- stolen items
- tobacco and cigarette papers
- fireworks
- pornographic images
- any article that the member of staff reasonably suspects has been, or is likely to be used:
    - to commit an offence
    - to cause personal injury to, or damage to the property of, any person (including the pupil)

School staff can seize any prohibited item found as a result of a search. They can also seize any item, however found, which they consider harmful or detrimental to school discipline.

SANCTIONS

The normal sanction for possession or involvement with drugs is expulsion. Any pupil found offering drugs to another pupil will be expelled and, following consultation with the Directors, the matter may be referred to the police.

In the event of a child not being expelled due to mitigating circumstances, it may be that the future senior school will be informed of the circumstances by the Headmaster.

Reviewed by: _____AJM_____