



FRAMLINGHAM COLLEGE

Framlingham College **DRUGS POLICY**

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment, 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 students the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. This policy sets out procedures aimed to prevent misuse of controlled drugs and other substances, and to detect and deal with any such use by students. The policy applies at all times, whether or not the student is in the care of the College.

Definition

Drugs and substances refer to: controlled drugs; substances intended to resemble drugs; legal drugs obtainable from a chemist; performance enhancing drugs; anabolic steroids; glue; other substances intended for misuse.

Aim of policy

The central aim of this policy is to encourage students to avoid the misuse of drugs and other substances. We have extensive health education and PSHE programmes that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse, and emphasises the dangers of committing criminal offences. As with our related policies 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 extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE, Science and Drama lessons. We also hold assemblies on the topic, receive talks from the police and make use of travelling workshops and road shows, and reformed addicts to cover the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their House Master/Mistress or any member of the Pastoral Team. They can also approach Medical Staff or the School Counsellor for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

We will always investigate rumours, reports or complaints regarding involvements with drugs or substances.

Search procedures

If it is believed that a student is in possession of drugs or other substances, it may be appropriate for staff to perform a search of the students' clothing, personal property, study bedroom, locker, desk or other relevant location. Before any such search is undertaken permission will be sought from the student if they are deemed to be sufficiently mature or the parents. The College will be entitled to make such inferences as it may deem appropriate from refusal to grant permission. All searches will be undertaken in the presence of at least two adults and will be performed in a manner designed to minimise distress.

Testing procedures

If there is a reasonable suspicion of the use or possession of drugs or substances, a student will be asked to take a drug test. Permission of the student will be sought if they are of appropriate maturity to take an informed decision, otherwise the permission of the parents will be necessary. In any case every effort will be made to notify parents prior to testing. The College will be entitled to make such inferences as it may deem appropriate from refusal to grant permission for a test to be taken.

The College reserves the right to use a saliva or urine test, or any other medically appropriate testing method. In all cases the procedures recommended by the manufacturer of the test will be followed. Two members of pastoral staff will always be in attendance when a sample is provided for testing, in addition to any medical staff required by the procedure. One member of staff will act as the College representative and the other will be present to support the student.

Sanctions

Any student found to be supplying drugs should expect to be expelled from the College.

The normal sanction for possession or involvement with drugs is also expulsion. However, where there are mitigating circumstances a suspension, alongside a support and testing agreement, may be more appropriate. Under such circumstances, the student and parents will be required to formally agree to random testing throughout the remainder of the pupil's College career 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. During the remainder of the student's career at the College they will be offered access to the medical staff and school counsellor in order to support them in their efforts to refrain from further use.

The College at all times reserves the right to inform the police of any suspected criminal activity.

Following an expulsion, parents have the right to appeal, according to the 'Appeals against expulsion' procedures.