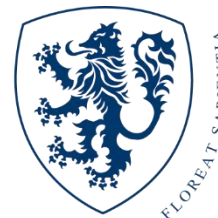


# WYMONDHAM COLLEGE

## APPENDIX: RESPONSE TO DRUGS POLICY



### CONTEXT

Wymondham College's 'Response to Drugs Policy' is born out of our duty to safeguard the students within our care. It is also important for the maintenance of good order and discipline within the community, and for the protection of the College's reputation. Our policy also seeks to encourage respect for the rule of law.

All students need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about drugs, both legal and illegal. The College aims through the curriculum and other areas of College life:

- To educate all students about substance use and abuse in accordance with their age.
- To provide all students with accurate information about substances.
- To provide students with access to advice and support if needed.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and abuse.
- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices on the basis of knowledge.

As a College, we are aware that young people may face pressure to use or experiment with controlled drugs, and we aim to do all we can to reduce those pressures. However, the College does not act alone. We are part of a broader prevention picture which includes the Police and a range of partner agencies. Parents are asked to give their wholehearted support to the implementation of this policy. By working together, we can help young people to navigate their way through what is a complex social issue and safeguard everyone within the community.

This policy applies to all staff, students, parents, volunteers, Trustees and partner agencies working in the College. It includes journeys to and from College in College uniform, work experience, residential trips and Wymondham Life activities.

This policy also applies to conduct outside of College that may have an adverse effect within the College community or on the reputation of the College, in so far as it is reasonable, guided by current DfE statutory guidelines.

### DEFINITION OF A DRUG

The definition of a drug in this policy, as given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is: "A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave."

For the purposes of this policy, the term "drug" includes:

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971).
- Novel or new psychoactive substances, commonly known as 'legal highs'.

## **SUSPICION OF MISUSE**

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a student is misusing drugs in, or out of, College, whether in term or holiday time, they must report the situation through the student's Head of House or directly to the Vice Principal (Boarding, Behaviour, Teaching and Learning) or designated Safeguarding Lead, who will decide, in consultation with other appropriate parties, if further investigation is warranted.

If there is a reasonable suspicion of drug or substance abuse, that student will be interviewed and asked to undergo a drugs test. The reason for this policy is:

- To deter the use of drugs and substances at the College.
- To identify users.
- To be able to support the safety and welfare of the user in the most effective way.
- To absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.

Suspicious may be raised where one or more of the following is observed, including but not limited to:

- Significant, unexplained changes in behaviour or body language.
- Suspected involvement with a drug related incident.
- Changes in attendance, and being unwilling to take part in College activities.
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings in mood, restlessness or irritability.
- Reports that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends in older age groups.
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money.
- Stealing money or goods.
- Excessive tiredness or excitability without obvious cause.
- A significant change in personal appearance.
- Heavy use of scents, sprays and colognes.
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times.
- Being the subject of multiple rumours about drug taking.
- Where association with vaping is a concern.

## **TESTING PROCEDURES**

The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the student, rather than the parent, even if the student is under 16 years of age (provided they are of sufficient maturity and that they fully understand the situation). In these circumstances, parents will be informed as soon as is reasonably possible after the event. If the test proves positive, then the College's Relationships and Behaviour policy will be applied accordingly. If a student is not in a fit state on a given day to undergo a drug test, the College will require them to do so at a later stage.

A refusal by a pupil to undergo a test, without good reason, will be deemed as an admission of guilt and will be dealt with as if a test was returned positive.

Testing is carried out in accordance with a strict procedure. Students will be asked to give a urine sample in the Medical Centre using a suitable container provided by the Nurse. The student's dignity and personal privacy will be respected in taking the sample, although the supervising member of staff will need to be present at the time of the test in order to ensure the results are fair.

A note of the test, along with the outcome, will be recorded by the Medical Centre. The urine sample will be destroyed after the conclusion of any possible appeal, unless required by the Police or other authorities.

## SANCTIONS

A student may be suspended or permanently excluded from College (including from boarding) if, on the balance of probabilities, they have committed a serious breach of the College Code of Conduct or committed a serious criminal offence. Possession, use and supply of controlled drugs are criminal offenses.

Conduct outside of College that adversely affects the College's reputation is grounds for permanent exclusion. Students at Wymondham College are therefore expected to avoid any association with drugs both inside and outside of College, both during term time and during the College holidays.

To be clear, a student may be permanently excluded from Wymondham College if:

1. They have been involved with selling, distributing or otherwise actively encouraging possession or consumption of drugs, wherever and whenever that conduct takes place (within the bounds of reasonable jurisdiction).
2. They have supplied, handled, possessed or consumed drugs while under the College's jurisdiction ("Supplied" includes communicating with a drug dealer for someone else, introducing fellow students to a drug dealer, or any instance of procuring controlled drugs for another pupil, passing a drug to another pupil or taking from another pupil").
3. They attend school while under the influence of drugs.
4. They are involved outside the College's jurisdiction in the supply, handling, possession, consumption or incitement to the misuse of drugs and, in the view of the Principal, this has, or may have, a negative impact on the College or on the student involved, or on others.
5. They refuse to undergo a drug test without good reason if it is requested by the Principal or another member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The College may determine whether a student's conduct falls in line with the above points 1 – 5 on the balance of probabilities, having regard to the information known to the College at the time. Any decision to exclude a pupil will be made in line with DfE Statutory guidance on suspension and exclusion from schools. A boarding place may be withdrawn by the Principal after a review of the pupil's continued suitability to board.

## ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE

The College will always assist students who have been affected by drugs so they can find support from agencies who are specialists in assisting with addiction and drug problems.

There may be occasions where, in the professional opinion of the Principal, support rather than exclusion is the appropriate outcome. Whilst only indicative, this may include a first-time offence of possession. In such cases, advice and support may be given to the students and their parents. The student may remain in the College if both the student and parents agree to a supportive regime in which the student promises:

1. Not to breach the College's Drug Policy, and
2. Agrees to regular and random testing at the parent's expense, for the remainder of their College career and
3. Appropriate support is accessed.

## POLICE

It is a criminal offence to possess, consume or supply certain drugs. In such cases, students and parents can expect that the Police will be informed. The College seeks to uphold the rule of law and support the Police in fighting drugs in the local area.

## ADVICE TO PARENTS

Below is general advice to parents to minimise the likelihood of their children experimenting with drugs:

- Avoid giving your son or daughter excessive amounts of money.
- Firmly discourage your son or daughter from smoking or vaping, which is often the gateway to more serious drug abuse.
- Do not allow your sons or daughters to go to unsupervised parties or stay out overnight unless parents have checked with the people with whom he/she is staying.

## NATIONAL HELPLINES AND LOCAL SERVICES

### DRUG EDUCATION FORUM

This website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners and parents/carers.

Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com](http://www.drugeducationforum.com)

### FRANK

A national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 hour helpline: 0300 123 6600

Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com)

### MENTOR UK

A non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Telephone: 020 7739 8494

Email: [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org)

### THE MATTHEW PROJECT YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Empowering young people in the East of England to overcome issues with drugs, alcohol and mental health.

Telephone: 01603 626123

Email: [helloatmatthewproject.org](mailto:helloatmatthewproject.org)