



DRUGS, ALCOHOL & TOBACCO POLICY

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INTRODUCTION

Geneva English School fosters cooperation within the school community to promote the health and safety of all its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their wellbeing.

AIMS

Young people face ever-growing pressures to use or experiment with controlled drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances. We aim to do all we can to reduce these pressures, to educate students about the risk of involvement with drugs and to maintain an environment free from drugs and other harmful substances, and from the temptation to use them. The responsibility for the education of our students in this area is shared with parents and effective communication and cooperation is essential to the implementation of the School's policy. It is hoped that parents will share concerns with the School should they believe their student is involved in using drugs.

We aim:

- To enable students to make healthy, well-informed choices by increasing knowledge at an age-appropriate level, challenging attitudes and misconceptions, and developing in students an informed understanding of the world in which they live with respect to substances that may be harmful to their health, welfare and future opportunities
- To ensure compliance with criminal law and to educate our students to have respect for the law
- To maintain the integrity of the school community, to reflect the wishes of parents, and to provide support and counselling for those who may be vulnerable or exposed to the opportunity to experiment with drugs
- To provide a firm disciplinary framework for dealing with students who bring drugs into school and use or tempt others to use them either within or outside school premises.
Students involved in drugs in this way are liable to permanent exclusion from the School.
- To provide accurate information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse
- To widen the students' understanding about related health and social issues
- To enable students to identify sources of appropriate personal support
- To actively discourage the use of illegal and harmful substances and to treat cases of drug usage by students as serious misconduct

Parents are asked to give their full support to these aims.

EDUCATION

These aims are fulfilled primarily by our PSHE programme in a way that is appropriate to the student's age and level of development, and reinforced in other parts of the curriculum. Where there is felt to be an immediate and/or specific need, relevant issues will be discussed during PSHE lessons, and/or professional guidance sought to educate the students.

ALCOHOL

Students are taught about the effects of alcohol on health and its social implications in PSHE lessons. Consumption of alcohol at any time and in any circumstances is forbidden (apart from at school celebration events where parents give explicit permission for their child to consume alcoholic beverages, even then they must be of legal age). The unauthorised possession of any alcoholic drinks is also forbidden, no matter if the student is of legal drinking age

SMOKING

Students are forbidden to smoke cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, vapes or any other tobacco products. The effects on health of smoking are taught and discussed as part of the PSHE programme. Geneva English School operates a 'no smoking on site' policy.

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

This policy applies at all times when a student is in the care of the School. It also applies to complaints or other incidents in or out of school where an individual student or the reputation of the School is affected, for example when one student is found to have offered drugs or other substances to another.

INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS

Parents will be kept informed of any changes or developments to the School's programme of drugs education. Parents will be invited to the School on certain occasions to discuss issues related to adolescence and youth culture. Parents are encouraged to contact the School if they believe that their student may have been offered or in any way be involved with drugs.

PARENTAL CONDUCT

If parents attending school premises appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol, they will be asked to leave. The member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the relevant DSLs (Deputy Heads). If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive while under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the Head or to another member of the LT, who may telephone the Police. If the School has reason to believe that a student is in immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the student will not be released into the care of the parent until appropriate measures have been taken. These may include the involvement of another member of the family, Children's Services (SSEJ) or the Police.

STAFF CONDUCT

Staff are allowed to consume alcohol at school events in moderate amounts. If staff are on school residential visits then one male and one female member of staff must be responsible for the group of students and will not be allowed to consume alcohol. Under no circumstances should staff be under the influence or in position of drugs, legal highs or drug paraphernalia. Being so will be treated as a dismissable offence and the school will report the staff member to the relevant authorities. The staff handbook has more information on this.

INDIVIDUAL PUPILS

Help and support will be provided to any student genuinely seeking it. However, confidentiality will not be provided to any student who discloses that they are taking drugs. A student coming forward with a drug problem will receive help but any evidence of possessing drugs on or near the school premises or whilst on trips or visits will lead to being asked to leave.

INVESTIGATION

The School will investigate any rumour about involvement with drugs or harmful substances. The investigation may involve segregating a student for no longer than necessary, asking them questions, asking them to give a written statement, searching their belongings and taking possession of property for analysis,

SEARCHES

Before any search is undertaken, consent will usually be sought from parents, or from the student if he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding. The Deputy Head will determine whether or not the student is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of another member of the LT. If the student refuses, they will be asked to say why they have refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from the student's responses and behaviour, and the Police may be informed. If a parent refuses consent, the School may draw inferences from the parent's general demeanour, and the Police may be informed.

If the Head and Deputy Head have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a student has a prohibited item in his/her possession, they may authorise a search of a student or their possessions without seeking or obtaining consent.

If members of staff believe that a student possesses drugs or other harmful substances, it may be appropriate for him/her to carry out a search of outer clothing and/or a search of school

property (e.g. a student's locker) and/or a search of personal property (e.g. a bag or pencil case).

Searches will always be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a student or his possessions will be carried out in the presence of the student and of another member of staff.

Where a student is searched, the searcher and the second member of staff present will be the same gender as the student.

Where the Head, Deputy Head, or another member of staff authorised by the Head, find anything which they have reasonable grounds to suspect is a prohibited item, they may seize, retain and/or dispose of that item.

Where the student declines to allow a search of their belongings, this will be taken into account in any subsequent disciplinary procedure.

POLICE INVOLVEMENT

If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the Police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the school may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. If the Police suspect that a student possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the Police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the school to investigate.

The School may use its discretion to decide whether police involvement is appropriate.

DEFINITIONS

- "*Drugs*" means controlled drugs including cannabis, Temazepam, LSD, cocaine, amphetamines, ecstasy and heroin and includes both illegal drugs and those that are legal when present in medicinal products of low strength (and which may be obtained with or without a prescription).
- "*Involvement with illegal drugs*" includes possession, use, supplying and dealing with controlled drugs or substances resembling controlled drugs.
- "*Substances*" means all controlled drugs and, in the appropriate context, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, smoking paraphernalia, anabolic steroids, and every other substance that, when abused, may damage the health, safety and welfare of a student.
- "*Reasonable suspicion*" means a suspicion based on a cogent reason stated by the Headmaster.
- "*Satisfied*" means "more likely than not" in the opinion of the Head.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE FOLLOWING MISUSE OF DRUGS

The School will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The default position is that any type of illegal drug use or possession will result in permanent exclusion from GES.

The School will take temporary possession of a substance that is or is suspected to be an illegal drug to protect the student from harm and from committing the offence of possession. School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance. The substance will be handed over to the Police, who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug.

Appropriate counselling and support will be available to those students perceived to be at risk.

When a student discloses to a member of staff (including the School Counsellor) that they are taking drugs, the member of staff should make clear to the student that the information will be shared with the Head and/or relevant Deputy Head. Given the seriousness of substance misuse, the student will be pointed to sources of confidential information and advice, and to treatment and rehabilitation services available to help those who are misusing substances.

SUPPLY OR DEALING IN DRUGS

Pupils who sell illegal drugs, possess them with intent to supply, distribute them, or encourage others to use them, whether on or off school premises while under school auspices, will be permanently excluded.

OTHER INVOLVEMENT

In every other case where the Head is satisfied that there has been involvement in illegal drugs on or off school premises while under school auspices, or where a student has tested positive to illegal drugs, the student will normally be required to leave the school as the health and safety of other students is directly at risk. Alternative sanctions, depending on all the circumstances, including the student's degree of involvement and at the discretion of the Head and may include a suspension.

REVIEW PROCEDURE

A decision to expel or require a student to leave will be subject to review by a panel of governors following a written request, made by the parents in accordance with the Appeal Procedure (see Behaviour and Discipline Policies).

MONITORING

This policy will be reviewed:

- Following any serious incident involving students and drugs;
- Following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE);
- On request from the Board of Governors; and
- In any event, every year.