



SEDBERGH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Drugs and Drug Testing Policy	
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Policy Owner	Gemma Newton
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Introduction

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Sedbergh International Summer School (“the Summer 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 illicit drugs and substances. This policy should be considered alongside the Summer School’s Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy.

DEFINITION AND SCOPE

Drugs and/or substances means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, substances commonly referred to as "legal highs" or "legal" drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse.

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances and applies to all pupils when they are on Summer School premises, or in the care of the Summer School, or wearing Summer School uniform, or otherwise representing or associated with the Summer School.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Our staff play a role in promoting healthy lifestyles. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their House Parent, Teacher, Welfare Officer (formerly Matron) or any member of the Activity Staff, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We welcome the opportunity to discuss matters with parents or guardians and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of our pupils.

SUPPORT

If 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 Course Directors, 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 time on the course allows.

PROCEDURES

Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to involvement with drugs and substances will be followed up and assessed. The Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy DSL will be informed of all serious cases and will decide whether a referral to Children's Services is necessary in order to ensure the right help and advice is provided. Where significant harm (actual or likely) is a feature a referral in accordance with the Child Protection Policy will always be made to Children's Services. A pupil suspected of such involvement may be suspended pending the outcome of an assessments or investigation by Children's Services.

Summer School staff can search pupils for drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his/her consent.

The Operations Director and staff authorised by the Course Director may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions without their consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has drugs or substances in their possession.

If the Summer School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the Summer School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the Summer School may decide to request the involvement of Children's Services and/or the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil 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 Children's Services and/or the Summer School for further assessment.

A pupil suspected of involvement with drugs or substances may be asked to give a biological sample. The reason for this policy is:

- to deter breaches of Summer School discipline;
- to identify users;
- to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.

Reason to suspect use of drugs or substances may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.

The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives his/her informed consent in writing. The member of staff leading the investigation will determine whether or not the pupil is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of the Welfare Officer.

Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a biological sample is taken, to notify a parent, guardian or education guardian of the requirement for a sample and the reasons for that requirement.

If a pupil refuses to provide a biological sample he/she will be asked to say why he/she has refused. The Summer School will be entitled to draw inferences from his/her response and general demeanour. If a parent's consent is required and they refuse to consent to their child providing a biological sample, the Summer School may draw inferences from the pupil's general demeanour.

The Summer School will treat a positive test, although not infallible, as evidence that the pupil has been using drugs or substances, as appropriate.

Where there is a positive test, or where the pupil refuses to provide a sample to be tested the Summer School will follow a disciplinary procedure. In cases where a pupil may expect to be expelled, the Summer School will follow the procedure set out in its Policy on Expulsion Removal and Review.

SANCTIONS

The normal sanction for possession, use or supply of drugs or substances is expulsion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve suspension and a final warning. Any pupil found supplying or offering drugs to another person will be

expelled and, following consultation with the Governors, any criminal activity will be referred to the police.

Drugs & Drug Testing Policy – Action Points

UNDERTAKING	BY WHOM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should it be deemed necessary, drug testing will only be performed at School with the consent of the pupil or parents as applicable. Full details will be provided to the parents 	Course Director (or a person delegated to act on their behalf)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and assess rumours about involvements in drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching his/her room and personal possessions, informing parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the School to discuss the matter. If an investigation is required a referral will be made to Children’s Services. 	Course Director, DSL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impose an appropriate sanction on any pupil found in possession of or to have used drugs or substances. In some cases expulsion may be deemed to be the appropriate sanction. 	Course Director, DSL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expel any pupil found supplying or offering drugs or substances to another person and the matter may be referred to the police 	Course Director, COO