

LONGLEY PARK SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

DRUGS POLICY (Revised January 2009)

Longley Park Sixth Form College is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment. The college will not tolerate the distribution and taking of substances harmful to psychological and physical health.

We recognise our responsibility to treat drug misuse where appropriate as an education issue and to work, as appropriate, in partnership with the police, health services and parents to inform and protect the College community.

We actively seek to provide quality education on this issue to our students. The College will seek opportunities to:

- Deliver within the Tutorial Programme drug awareness education in order to enable students to develop their knowledge, skills, attitudes and understanding about drugs and so appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, supporting them in making good decisions both now and later in life.
- In order to enhance our drugs education, make use of a variety of visiting speakers and specialist agencies.
- Consult with staff and students in order to plan and develop drugs education that best meets the needs of our College community.
- Equip staff to support students and to deliver drug awareness sessions.

This policy aims to clarify and give guidance to the College community about what is unacceptable conduct in relation to drugs, volatile substances and alcohol.

DEFINITION:

A drug is any substance that affects the way in which the body functions, physically, emotionally or psychologically. It includes legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and solvents, volatile substances, over the counter and prescribed drugs and illegal drugs.

All of these items are covered by the term "drugs" within this policy.

- Tobacco is harmful to those who smoke and possibly more so to those subjected to passive smoking. The College is committed to informing and educating students about the health risks of smoking to promote and offer support for those wishing to cease smoking. The College building is a no smoking area. Cigarette smoking is strictly confined to the designated area. Persistent failure to follow the regulation regarding smoking will be considered a breach of the Learner Agreement and Staff Code of Conduct and may result in disciplinary action.
- It is unacceptable for any College staff or student to be in possession of or under the influence of alcohol on the College site. Anyone in possession of alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with the Colleges Disciplinary Policies. Parents/carers of students under 18, and where appropriate work placement providers will be notified. Staff and students may be suspended pending further investigation.
- Any College staff or student under the influence of drugs will be dealt with in accordance with the College's Disciplinary Policies. Parents/carers of students under 18, and where appropriate work placement providers will be informed. The police may also be involved. Staff and students will be suspended pending investigation.

- If a student has medication prescribed for a known condition they should inform their Progress Tutor and Student Services.
- It is a serious offence for any College staff or student to bring drugs onto the College site. Anyone found in possession of these will be dealt with in accordance with the College's Disciplinary Policies. Parents/carers of students under 18, and where appropriate work placement providers will be notified. The police may also be informed. Staff and students will be suspended pending investigation.
- The supply of any drug in College will be viewed as a criminal offence and the police contacted immediately. Individuals who pass drugs onto another member of the College even without payment would be deemed to be someone who is supplying drugs.
- Where a student is sent home, parents/carers of students under 18 and employers who are funding courses will be informed that they are being sent home and given the reason why.
- Prescription drugs are allowed on College site when a doctor has prescribed these to that named individual. Unauthorised prescription drugs would be viewed as possession of a class C substance and therefore disciplinary action would result in the police being contacted.
- Anyone who suspects individuals of taking, possessing or supplying drugs should inform a College Manager. If someone else's substance misuse is affecting any student then they can contact their Progress Tutor or Student Services Manager for support.
- If any paraphernalia associated with drugs is found by anyone on the College site under no circumstances should it be touched. Any College manager should be contacted immediately who will arrange for its safe removal.
- If any student requires support or advice in relation to drugs, they are encouraged to speak with their Tutor or to access Student Services. The College will seek to provide counselling/help within the College or through specialist agencies.
- This policy also applies to all College activities that take place away from the College site e.g. placement, enrichment activities, trips.