



DRUGS AND DRUGS TESTING POLICY

SENIOR SCHOOL

Governors' Committee normally reviewing:	Academic Committee
Date last formally approved by the Governors :	Autumn Term 2016
Date policy became effective :	November 2009

Period of Review:	3 Yearly
Next Review Date :	Autumn Term 2019

Person responsible for implementation and monitoring :	Headmaster
Other relevant policies :	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discipline and Exclusions• Safeguarding (Child Protection and Staff Behaviour) Policy• Felsted School Parent Agreement

The following policy covers the aims and ethos of the Senior School

[Aims of the School](#) Click here

[Ethos of the School](#) Click here

Mr Christopher Townsend
Head, Senior School

SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT

Felsted is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all pupils and a 'culture of vigilance' to safeguard and protect all in its care, and to all aspects of its 'Safeguarding (Child Protection and Staff Behaviour) Policy'.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES STATEMENT

The aims of the School and the principles of excellent pastoral care will be applied to all children irrespective of differences in ethnic background, culture, language, religion, sexual orientation, gender and disabilities, so long as in the last matter the student is able to involve himself or herself in the activity concerned; equally these differences will be recognised and respected, and the School will aim to provide a positive culture of tolerance, equality and mutual respect

DRUGS AND DRUGS TESTING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

The ***Misuse of Drugs Act 1971*** is the main body of legislation concerning illegal drugs in the UK and was enacted with the intention to prevent the non-medical use of certain drugs. The Act therefore covers all kinds of drugs even those without medicinal uses. Drugs subject to the Act are known as “controlled substances” which are split into different classifications and of which the use is illegal. The classification of drugs has been subject to ongoing revision, most notably cannabis was moved from Class B to Class C in 2004, but it was moved back to Class B in 2009 i.e. it still remains an illegal drug or ‘controlled substance’ in the UK.

With the use of drugs common among young people, the school has an ever more important duty of care in this area. This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the ***Felsted School Parent Agreement*** especially Section 11 relating to investigation, suspension, removal and expulsion.

Alongside the sanctions policy is a constructive educational programme of lectures and discussions on illegal drugs as well as other important health issues such as alcohol, tobacco, psychoactive substances, diet and exercise. **Drug use, both legal and illegal, is covered regularly in the Felsted School PSHE curriculum.**

Parents and pupils should note that **Psychoactive Substances** (things that cause hallucinations, drowsiness or changes in alertness, perception of time and space, mood or empathy with others e.g. laughing gas) are covered by this policy. Since the **Psychoactive Substances Act 2016**, the supply or production of Psychoactive Substances carries a maximum penalty of 7 years in prison, an unlimited fine or both.

2. FELSTED SCHOOL’S SANCTIONS POLICY ON DRUGS

2.1 Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption (‘substance abuse’) by others will in all cases be expelled.

2.2 This extends to any substance which is classified as a ‘controlled substance’ in category A, B or C or covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016; and also to other substances which while they may be legal, the use of which the school reasonably deems to be a form of ‘substance abuse’ (for example glue sniffing, aerosol sniffing or similar substance abuse behaviour).

2.3 Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs while under the school’s jurisdiction in term time must expect to be expelled. (The school’s jurisdiction extends to on and off the school site during term

time, and to all school activities, including trips, visits or expeditions led or managed by the school during term time or during the school holidays). In some cases there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.

2.4 The School has the right to search a pupil's person, their property or their accommodation at any time **that there is a serious concern, in line with the Felsted School Parent Agreement** (see Felsted School Parent Agreement, Section 11, and protocol for searches).

2.5 Any pupil using illegal substances outside of the school's geographical boundaries and outside of the school's jurisdiction in term time (i.e. in school holidays or during Exeat weekends, and all other times during the year when the pupil is not attending school) would be bringing the school into disrepute and may also be subject to the same sanctions as those applied during term time, including being expelled if the evidence warrants it.

2.6 The Headmaster may inform the police of the possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence.

2.7 If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with illegal drugs is a positive urine test, he or she may be allowed to stay in the school (following a period of suspension) provided that he or she:

- a) gives a written assurance to the Headmaster and to his/her parents, that he/she will not become involved with illegal drugs again
- b) consents in writing to undergo urine tests at various times during his/her remaining school career and agrees to be involved in a drugs education programme under the supervision of the school doctor.

2.8 The same undertakings will also be required of any pupil who may be allowed back after a first offence (see above) because of mitigating circumstances. Any subsequent offence, including a positive test result, will in every case lead to expulsion.

3. ADMINISTERING A DRUGS TEST

3.1 **Although The School will in all cases attempt to contact parents/guardians in advance,** the School reserves the right to administer a drugs test to any pupil without prior permission sought from parents or guardian, if there are sufficient grounds in a pupil's behaviour patterns or demeanour, or suspicions of involvement with drugs, to warrant such a test. (Parents sign a general permission form for such tests at the point of entry to the school).

3.2 By using a urine test there is greater likelihood of detecting the abuse of drugs. A test will only be used when there is reasonable cause; that is when there is concern over changes of mood or academic output or concern over lifestyle, sleep habits etc., **or as outlined above in 2.7 and 2.8.**

3.3 The decision to conduct a drugs test would be taken after consultation between the pupil's HM, the Senior Deputy Head and the Headmaster.

3.4 The drugs test would be administered by the HM or another senior member of staff, in the presence of a School Nurse at the Medical Centre.

3.5 Parents or guardians have a right to know that such a drugs test has been administered. They will be contacted as soon as possible about the test and the outcome regardless of whether it is positive or negative.

3.6 In the event of the Headmaster imposing a contract of conditions on a pupil to remain at Felsted, following their involvement with drugs, but having been allowed to stay at the school because of mitigating circumstances, drug tests will be administered at any time during the remainder of their time at the school. If any of these proves positive they will be permanently excluded forthwith.

3.7 If a pupil refuses to take a drug test or allow a search of their person, property or accommodation to take place this may be treated as an independent breach of school rules and dealt with accordingly.

4. REVIEW

4.1 This Policy will be reviewed by the Senior Leadership Team periodically and every three years by the Governing Body.

Mr Chris Townsend
Headmaster