



## **Gosfield School**

### **Drugs and Drug Testing Policy**

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at Gosfield 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 students the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

#### **Education Programme**

We have age-related health education and PSHE programmes that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programmes concerning alcohol and tobacco, they concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. However, they also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the law. Our programmes involve students in the Prep School and continue throughout your child's time at the School. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE and Science lessons. We also have assemblies on the topic, the School educates students to understand that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers.

Our staff play an important role in maintaining awareness about the risks involved. Students can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with any member of staff as we are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the wellbeing of your son or daughter.

#### **Support and Sanctions**

Smoking including other tobacco products like snuz/ vaping and drugs (other than those which have been prescribed by a doctor) are forbidden. Providing, selling or using illegal drugs is regarded as a very serious offence. Mood-enhancing products, such as Nitrous Oxide, "Poppers" and other so-called 'legal highs or new psychoactive substances (NPS), Gummy Drugs and Dragonfly, are absolutely forbidden. Anabolic Steroids can damage the heart and liver, stunt bone development, and cause extreme mood changes, weight gain and acne. Any students suspected of using Steroids will also be sanctioned and intervention and support provided. Solvents or other aerosols must not be inhaled. Stimulants such as "Pro Plus" are also not permitted. In the unlikely event that a student voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user and asks for help, or if their parents or friends ask for help on their behalf, we may, depending upon the circumstances, and at the discretion of the Principal, offer them the opportunity to reform their habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling (at the parents' expense).

Bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the student is in the care of the School at the time, will be regarded as a serious disciplinary matter that may result in permanent exclusion. If a student fails a drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance), their position as a member of the school

community will be put in serious jeopardy and the school reserves the right to permanently exclude. Action will always be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

The normal sanction for possession of or involvement with drugs on or off the school premises is permanent exclusion even if he/she is about to sit public examinations. Any student found offering drugs to another student will be excluded and, following consultation with the Governors, the matter may be referred to the police.

In the event of a student not being permanently excluded due to mitigating circumstances, it may be that future schools will be informed of the circumstances by the Principal.

Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures will be taken into account when applying this policy. If a child is in danger of immediate serious harm, elements of these outlined procedures may not be followed in order to expedite appropriate care for the child.

### **Investigation**

We will always investigate rumours about involvement in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a student and searching their personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

Suspicious or accusations of drug possession on the school premises must be brought to the attention of the Assistant Principal Pastoral (DSL) or the Vice Principal, who will co-ordinate the investigation and keep the Principal informed.

The Principal will inform the Chair of Governors about substantive drugs investigations.

### **Searches for drugs, substances and related paraphernalia**

If a student is believed to have prohibited items in their possession, the Principal, and staff authorised by the Principal, may search a student or a student's possessions:

- a search of outer clothing; and/or
- a search of School property, eg students' lockers or desks; and/or
- a search of personal property, eg bag or pencil case within a locker

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a student or their possessions will be carried out in the presence of the student and 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 Principal, or staff authorised by the Principal, find anything which they have reasonable grounds for suspecting is a prohibited item, they may seize, retain and if applicable contact the police to dispose of the item.

### **Search Procedure**

Parents and guardians will be contacted as a matter of urgency and informed of the School's investigation.



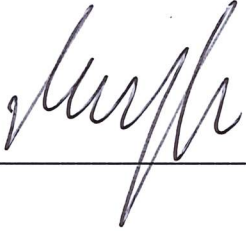
Any student who is suspected of being in possession of prohibited items will be kept in isolation and have their mobile phone confiscated until contact with parents or guardians is made. The student will be reminded of the importance of co-operation with the school. Two staff will be present and careful written records kept. The student will be asked whether they are in possession of drugs. If they say 'no' they will be invited to co-operate by turning out their pockets and handing over their bag to be searched. Students may also be asked to unlock their locker, although the School can search this without the student's consent if necessary.

If the student refuses to co-operate, a decision must be made as to whether to release them or whether to ask parents to come to school and use their authority to ensure co-operation. If a personal search is unavoidable, it may be appropriate to contact the police and request this. Any drugs confiscated from students will be given to the police for disposal as soon as possible.

### **Police Involvement**

The School may use its discretion to decide whether police involvement is appropriate. They may invite the police to bring sniffer dogs onto School premises unannounced to check for drugs. In most cases, the School will 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 to the School to investigate.

If the School seizes a controlled drug the School will contact the police to dispose of the item as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Signed  Date 10/9/25

Mr Rod Jackson,  
Principal

Date of next review: September 2028

