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LANGTREE SCHOOL GOVERNORS’ POLICY ON DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE

LANGTREE SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST COMPANY
AN EXEMPT CHARITY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 7980335

In this policy as in all documents of The Langtree School Academy Trust Company (“TLSATC”) any reference to Langtree School, School, Governors of Langtree School or Trustees of Langtree School Academy Trust Company is a reference to The Board of Directors of The Langtree School Academy Trust Company and any reference to the Headteacher of Langtree School is a reference to the Chief Executive Officer of TLSATC.

STATUS:			
RECOMMENDED	•	STATUTORY	
REVIEW FREQUENCY		3 years	
DATE OF POLICY		January 2019	
REVIEW DUE		January 2022	
COMMITTEE		Pastoral and Community	

Policy on Drugs and Substance Misuse

Langtree School operates a zero tolerance policy based on any evidence or suspicion that there is unauthorised involvement with legal or illegal substances (possession, supply or use).

1. Rationale

- 1.1. At Langtree School, we recognise that our pupils across the social spectrum, are growing up in a society where many kinds of drugs are and will continue to be available, some of which may be legal and others illegal, and all of which are potentially harmful. Consequently, we will try to help pupils to develop the personal and interpersonal skills necessary for coping with life in such a society.
- 1.2. We seek to include drug education in the curriculum in order that pupils can make informed choices and understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status and their uses and effects. We aim to provide a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school's Science curriculum and our PSHE programme. We deliver drug education provision in line with the school nurse school plan.

2. Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. For purposes of this policy, by 'drugs' we are referring to illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes / vaping devices, volatile (sniffable) substances (e.g petrol, alkyl nitrites, butane, aerosols), over the counter or prescription medicines and new psychoactive substances. By Drugs Paraphernalia we mean items such as cannabis grinders, rolling papers, filters, matches, lighters and pipes etc.

3. Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of school premises includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

• Medicines

The school has a policy for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Policy

• Alcohol

Students are not allowed to bring alcohol on to school premises or to consume alcohol during the course of a school day. Any adult, student, parent, carer or visitor on the school premises believed to be under the influence of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. If a student is suspected to be under the influence of alcohol, Parents will be asked to remove their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

• Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes

Langtree is a no smoking, no vaping site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking or vaping materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated, and parents informed. Smoking or vaping on the school premises, or during the school day, will result in a Fixed Term Exclusion.

- **Illegal drugs and legal highs**

No illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances or Drugs Paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of legal highs either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this drugs policy.

4. Safety and disciplinary procedures

Existing rules and disciplinary procedures regarding possession and smoking of tobacco continue to apply in accordance with the Langtree Behaviour Policy.

Students found in possession of drugs, or using or dealing in drugs, will be excluded from school for a period of time to be determined by the Headteacher. The Headteacher may exercise the use of permanent exclusion in line with the national legal guidance provided to Headteachers regarding permanent exclusion.

4.1 If there is any evidence or suspicion that there is involvement with legal or illegal substances (possession, supply or use) the following will apply:-

- If medical aid is needed (or might be needed) it will be sought at once
- If there is a strong suspicion that a pupil has taken an illegal substance, parents are informed of these suspicions. Dialogue with the pupil is considered. If appropriate, approaches will be made to determine the facts.
- If any student or adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated, if possible. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school may contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Parents and Carers will be informed (unless for safeguarding reasons this is not in the best interests of the student) and other professionals such as the local authority, Young Offenders Service, Aquarius, Police, GP, Social Services may be informed or consulted as appropriate.
- Any substance suspected of being a drug will be confiscated and kept in a secure place in the headteacher's office. The substance will then be destroyed (this will be witnessed) or passed for analysis within 24 hours or given to the police.
- Appropriate staff will be informed of the situation
- A careful record will be made by the staff dealing with the incident and kept by the headteacher and passed onto the Designated Safeguarding Lead for their records. This will involve the facts, including any personal feelings of uncertainty and an account of action taken.
- Even though a pupil may identify a drug, this can be substantiated only with laboratory analysis. The headteacher will decide if this is needed.
- If there is evidence that a pupil has been selling or attempting to sell an illegal substance the police will be informed immediately
- Every effort will be made to encourage the pupil to attend counselling sessions with health professionals to help prevent re-offending.

5. Drug Misuse outside the school premises

In line with the Department of Education's guidance on Behaviour & Discipline in Schools (January 2016), the school may impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs outside schools when students are: taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity or travelling to or from

school or in some way identifiable as a student at the school. The school may also impose sanctions on a student for misusing drugs at any time, whether or not the conditions above apply, if the misuse: could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school or poses a threat to another student or member of the public or could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

6. Right to Search

Staff at Langtree School reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons, illegal substances or anything that is illegal or dangerous. Searches will be carried out, in pairs, by Senior Teachers and/or Head of Years - one of whom will be of the same gender as the student. Parents and Carers will always be informed when this has happened. If dangerous or illegal items are brought into school, they may be confiscated and handed to the Police for safe disposal.

7. Support for students

The welfare of the student is paramount, and intervention will be made if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or the involvement of their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include: Support and advice in school (School Nurse, Head of Year or Tutor etc.) Referral to specialist outside agencies for support.

8. Governors

The governors are informed of any incidents relating to drugs or substances and may be present when disciplinary hearings are held for any serious drug related incidents.

9. Staff training

All staff are made aware of drug related issues. INSET involving all staff is arranged when appropriate to keep them updated. Tutors and staff attend courses when available to assist in providing an effective delivery of drug education.

Links to other policies and documentation:

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Curriculum Policy
- Supporting students with Medical Conditions
- Safeguarding Policy

Appendix A

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Concern works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol related problems

Tel: 020 7264 0510. Email: contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people.

Tel: 01206 877910 Email: clc@essex.ac.uk

Website: www.childrenslegalcentre.com

Children's Rights Alliance for England - A charity working to improve the lives and status of all children in England through the fullest implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Email: info@crae.org.uk Website: www.crae.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drinkline - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drugwise is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email:

info@drugscope.org.uk Website: www.drugwise.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Mentor UK is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives.

Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email admin@mentoruk.org

Website: www.mentoruk.org.uk

National Children's Bureau promotes the interests and well-being of all children and young people across every aspect of their lives.

Tel: 020 7843 6000 Website: www.ncb.org.uk

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects. Tel: 0800 800 2222

Website: <http://familylives.org.uk/>

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0800 169 0 169

Website: <http://smokefree.nhs.uk>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse.

Website: www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to [prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>