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Islamia Girls School/Brondesbury College "The School"

Drugs Education and Prevention Policy

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Overview

The Schools are committed to promoting a healthy environment, free from the misuse of drugs and other substances (including tobacco). Illegal drugs should never be in School. Legal drugs are only allowed when they are medicines agreed by the Head Teacher for use in School as prescribed by the GP of the student.

1. Responsibility

- 1.1 The Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the implementation of this policy, for liaison with management and parents/carers, and external agencies as appropriate, and for the training and support of staff. All members of staff must know the School's policy and seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support this policy.
- 1.2 The Head Teacher must ensure that all students are aware of the policy and its implications.
- 1.3 Parents are responsible for informing the Head Teacher if their child is taking any prescribed medication, supported by a letter from the GP.

2. Definition

- 2.1 Legal drugs that should not normally be in School include common ones such as:
 - 2.1.1 Alcohol
 - 2.1.2 Tobacco
 - 2.1.3 Solvents
 - 2.1.4 Over the counter drugs; and
 - 2.1.5 Prescribed drugs
- 2.2 Illegal drugs which must never be in School include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 2.2.1 Cannabis
 - 2.2.2 Ecstasy
 - 2.2.3 Heroin
 - 2.2.4 Crack/cocaine; and
 - 2.2.5 LSD

3. Drugs Education

The Head will ensure that there is a planned drugs education programme as part of the PSHE programme (and other appropriate areas of the curriculum e.g. Science).

4. Programme

The Programme must use Islamic principles and teaching to:

- 4.1 Inform students about drugs and their effects;
- 4.2 Promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle;
- 4.3 Increase students' understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs;
- 4.4 Inform students about courses of action open to them if they or people they know become, or might become, involved in drugs activity; and inform students about support and resources available in School and outside School.
- 4.5 The detailed programme will be coordinated by the Form Tutors in consultation with the Head Teacher and relevant staff.

5. Action to be Taken in Incidents Involving Misuse of Drugs:

It is vitally important the staff, students and parents/carers should be clear about the action that will be taken in any drug related incident (including smoking).

- 5.1 Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs (including cigarettes), or suspected misuse, are reported to the Head or Discipline/Pupil Officer.
- 5.2 In all instances involving substance misuse or supply on the School's premises parents/carers will be informed, and their cooperation sought.
- 5.3 The School will consider each drug incident separately and consider the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the student, other members of the School and the wider community.
- 5.4 However, it is essential that parents/carers and students are clear about the normal sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows:
 - 5.4.1 A student who supplies any drugs (including cigarettes) or other solvents (whether legal or illegal, and regardless of the seriousness of the use) on the School premises will normally be permanently excluded for a first offence.
 - 5.4.2 'Supply' includes retailing drugs on the premises, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of another student of the School, introducing fellow students to a drug dealer, and any other instance of procuring legal or illegal drugs for himself or other students.
 - 5.4.3 'Supply' includes supplying for money or free-of-charge.

- 5.4.4 In the case of the supply of a drug which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Head Teacher will assess the seriousness of the incident before deciding whether to exclude permanently or for a fixed period.
- 5.4.5 Before making a decision on exclusion the Head Teacher will ensure that satisfactory investigation has been carried out.
- 5.5 A student who has any legal or illegal drug in his/her possession will be dealt with by a Step 7 or Step 8 Sanction in accordance with the Behaviour & Reward Policy. This will be determined by the Head Teacher after considering all the circumstances of the case.
- 5.6 The Head Teacher will also determine what counselling needs to be provided and/or other action needs to be taken during or after the exclusion.

6. Offences Outside the School

If a student is involved in a drug-related incident outside the School, the Head Teacher will assess the implications for the student and the School and determine the best course of action bearing in mind the interests of the student and the interests of the School and wider community.

This policy should be read in line with the Behaviour & Reward Policy.