

## **The Grey Coat Hospital**

### **Anti-Drugs Policy**

#### **Suspected Drug Abuse**

Any student found using any drug, legal or illegal, will be excluded from school for a fixed term. The student will then be offered support in dealing with the issues surrounding the drug abuse either from someone from the school nurses service or the Hungerford Drugs project.

The following procedures apply when a member of staff discovers any form of drug abuse:

#### **Legal drugs (for example, tobacco, alcohol or solvents)**

If a member of staff catches a student smoking or drinking, the teacher in charge of the building should be informed immediately. Under normal circumstances, the student will be excluded for a fixed term. In the case of solvent misuse, this will be treated as an illegal substance.

#### **Illegal drugs (for example, cannabis and cocaine)**

Any student found involved in the consumption of illegal drugs should be reported immediately to the teacher in charge of the building. The student will be excluded for a fixed term. If a student discloses to a teacher that she or he is taking drugs but outside the school, the teacher must inform the designated Child Protection Officer who will inform the Headteacher so that help may be given.

#### **Steps to be taken upon discovery of use of illegal drugs**

- Remove the substance if possible in the presence of a witness and record the time, place and circumstance when the substance came into your possession.
- In the absence of a witness, do not put off removing the substance from a student's possession but at all times use your professional discretion.

- Do not investigate the nature of the substance, but do record its approximate size and appearance.
- When possible, have recordings countersigned by a witness.
- Take the substance immediately to the teacher in charge of the building. Do not keep the substance on your person or in place of safekeeping; to do so, may place you at risk.

### **Warning signs**

- Dilated or constricted pupils
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose
- Decline in performance in schoolwork
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money