

## **Millfield English Language Holiday Courses (MELHC) Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy**

### **Statement of intent**

MELHC has a zero tolerance policy on the buying, selling, possession and use of drugs. This applies to staff and students and to all activities, trips, travel, excursions, events and any other MELHC related activity.

### **MELHC procedure for dealing with substance misuse**

#### **Alcohol**

Alcohol is easily accessible and socially acceptable in most cultural groups. It is associated with risk taking behaviour and most young people have an awareness of alcohol and “drinking behaviour”. It is often a significant factor in deaths of young people and youth binge drinking is a UK national concern.

If pupils are found with alcohol at MELHC, this will be confiscated and parents/guardians/Group Leaders may be informed. Pupils misusing alcohol in school, coming into school under the influence of alcohol or bringing alcohol into school to give or sell to other pupils or any arising anti-social behaviour as a result may lead to expulsion from the course.

#### **Smoking**

The school is designated a “no smoking” area for staff, visitors and students. If a student were to be found smoking on campus, or were suspected of smoking, the Centre Manager should be informed immediately. The Centre Manager should warn the student about the health risk to themselves and others, their parents/guardians/Group Leaders may be contacted and cigarettes and matches / lighters confiscated with immediate effect.

#### **Volatile Substance Abuse**

The most common acts of volatile substance abuse are glue or solvent sniffing, which carry a high risk of sudden death. They are often a gateway to illegal drug misuse. The possession of volatile substances is not illegal in the UK; it is an offence to supply to a person under 18 however.

As part of Health and Safety measures, MELHC will take the steps to control the movement and safe storage of volatile substances on school premises. Students caught with volatile substances on site will have them confiscated; parents/Guardians/Group Leaders contacted and they may then be asked to leave the course. The DSL and Director of Holiday Courses and Events may refer to other agencies for help.



# MILLFIELD ENTERPRISES

## **Sanctions**

Expulsion from the course will, in all but the most exceptional circumstances, be the result of a student buying, selling, offering, using or possessing drugs at school or on any trip/excursion organised by MELHC. The Director of Holiday Courses and Events has a legal duty to inform the police of any offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

## **Reporting drug misuse**

The misuse of any drug is a drug related incident. Staff must inform their Line Manager, Centre Manager, MELHC Manager or Director of Holiday Courses and Events immediately if any evidence of drug/substance misuse is found on school property or a child is thought to possess such evidence.

The Director of Holiday Courses and Events will then assess the legal requirements, liaison with outside agencies, contact with parents/guardians/Group Leaders, health, welfare and safety procedures including the safe handling of suspect substances.

The Director of Holiday Courses and Events should take responsibility for liaison with the media.

MELHC will take appropriate advice and guidance from the Millfield Legal Departments to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interest of all parties concerned.

Emergency procedures for suspected misuse of drugs

Summon help from the Medical Centre but do not leave the student alone. Make the student and the space safe. Check airways are not blocked and place student in recovery position. Keep the student warm to prevent shock. An ambulance should be called by dialling 999.