



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

Policy on Smoking, Drugs and Substance Abuse

Introduction

Addiction to drugs is likely to have a damaging effect on the mental and physical condition of young people. It is the duty of The English College to make students aware of the dangers of drug and substance abuse and to make it clear to them that the possession or use of illegal substances on school premises or on school trips is totally forbidden. The English College must remain a smoke and drug-free zone.

Anyone using drugs or (other substances) recreationally risks experiencing negative effects not only on their wellbeing and health but also, intellectual functioning, including learning, concentration and educational achievement. This includes cannabis or marijuana, which many young people wrongly believe to be harmless. There is plenty of medical evidence which links regular or heavy use of cannabis to mental illness, especially schizophrenia, psychosis, anxiety and depression.

Response

If a student's behaviour is unusual, or if his or her academic performance or behaviour deteriorates significantly, then that student will be spoken to and, if there appears to be a problem of drug abuse, parents may be invited into the College, so that the Headmaster can advise them on further steps which must be taken in the best interests of the student and the rest of the College community.

If a student is discovered buying, offering, supplying or selling drugs to other students, then he or she forfeits their place at the College and must expect to be asked to leave the College immediately and permanently. Please refer to the School Code for specific details.

Students Seeking Help

If a student is addicted to drugs and wishes to seek help, he or she should tell the Headmaster or the Deputy Head (Pastoral & Wellbeing). Self-disclosure will be treated to supportively and the College will endeavour to offer support and advice to the student and his/her parents. The College has access to drug prevention agencies in Prague.

Parents and teachers need to work together to discourage young people from smoking as this is clearly in the best interests of a student's health and wellbeing. It is not against the law for children to smoke in the Czech Republic, and as such we will not take any disciplinary action if we become aware that students smoke. However, we reserve the right to share information about students smoking with their parents if we think this is appropriate to do so for health, wellbeing or safeguarding reasons.

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