

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

POLICY STATEMENT

Number 26	Date Approved by Board of Governors July 2018
--------------	--

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL EDUCATION AND MANAGEMENT POLICY

Introduction

“All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about, substances both legal and illegal. Schools play a central role in helping them make such decisions by providing education about the risk and effects of; substances by developing their confidence and skills to manage situations involving substances; by creating a safe and supportive learning environment; and ensuring that those for whom substances are a concern receive appropriate support.”

The LRGS policy on substances follows DFE guidance and is linked to other policies such as Health Education and Behaviour policies.

The policy provided information and guidance about drug education as well as procedures to respond to any drug related incidents for pupils, teachers support staff and outside agencies or individuals.

Definition of Substances

For the purposes of this policy statement the word ‘drugs’ includes all mood and performance changing substances both legal and illegal and include alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (‘legal highs’) and volatile substance.

Medicines – many drugs are lawfully carried as medicines. If pupils supply prescription drugs to others in school, they are acting unlawfully and so this policy applies.

General approach

1. The School’s first concern is managing drugs in the health and safety of the school community and meeting the pastoral needs of our pupils.
2. The School acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people, and through the general ethos of the school, will seek to persuade pupils in need of support to come forward.
3. The possession, use or supply of illegal or other unauthorised drugs in school or whilst taking part in an off-site activity such as a visit is unacceptable. Any substances related incidents will be taken seriously by LRGS in a no-smoking school. Pupils must not bring cigarettes or lighters into school or on a school trip. Any alcohol, cigarettes or lighters found will be confiscated and parents informed.

4. The Headmaster takes overall responsibility for these aims and their implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents and appropriate outside agencies (see below) and for the appointment of a Substance Co-ordinator, currently the Deputy Head Pastoral, who will have general responsibility for handling the daily implementation of this policy.

Scope of the Policy

The policy covers all pupils and staff on school premises including in buildings and on the grounds. It extends beyond the school gates when a pupil is travelling to and from school. The policy also applies to off-site activities, school trips including those abroad. It also covers the use of the school premises by the community.

Curriculum Aims

A key part of the drugs education programme is ensuring that pupils are able to access and manage risk appropriately and to keep themselves safe.

LRGS's aims for our drug education programme are as follows:

- To improve pupils' knowledge of drugs and their effects on the human body
- To raise pupils' awareness of the consequences of drug use and misuse to the individual, the family, peers, local communities and society
- To increase awareness of ways of minimising the risks and unwanted consequences of drug use
- To enable pupils to make (or plan to make) informed and sensible decisions about their drug use
- To enable pupils to develop a range of skills and techniques appropriate for handling situations related to drugs and drug use
- To promote pupils' understanding of the reasons why drugs are used and misused
- To encourage children and young people to find satisfaction, challenge, pleasure, emotional variety, and excitement through a range of activities
- To help pupils to explore and develop their own attitudes to drugs
- To enable pupils to identify sources of information and appropriate personal support and to be able to make use of these sources if they require them

Education

Education about substance use and misuse is included within the taught curriculum as shown in the policy on Health Education. In addition, further opportunities are taken to increase pupil awareness in assemblies, form lessons and talks by visitors and outside agencies.

Substance Incidents

All staff have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. Staff should alert the Substance Co-ordinator or Heads of Year and follow school safeguarding procedures where there are concerns.

Substance related incidents will be taken seriously and any school based investigations will be coordinated by the Deputy head Pastoral. Incidents will include situations where:

- Substances or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises
- A pupil is found in possession of, or to be supplying, substances
- A pupil, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of substances
- A pupil discloses that he or a family member/friend is misusing substances

Whenever a substance related incident is identified, members of staff should:

- **Ensure that any person who appears to be under the influence of any substance is escorted to the Medical Centre.**
- **Immediately inform the Deputy head Pastoral (or in his absence the Headmaster).**
- **Seek and record as much information as possible.**

Searches

Searches will always be conducted in such a way as to minimise potential embarrassment or distress.

Personal searches

When a person is suspected of concealing illegal or other unauthorised substances it is not appropriate for a member of staff to carry out a personal search; this includes the searching of outdoor clothing and inside pockets. Every effort should be made to persuade the person to hand over voluntarily any substances, in the presence of a second adult witness. If the individual refuses to cooperate, the member of staff should contact a senior member of staff who should then consider if it is appropriate to try to contact the pupil's parents. If the parents can be contacted they should be encouraged to persuade the pupil to agree to the search taking place. If the matter remains a cause of major concern then the police should be called in to conduct the personal search.

'Forced Searches'

Reasonable force may be used in exercising the statutory power to search pupils without their consent for alcohol and illegal drugs. At LRGS, this search power may be exercised by senior staff where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has such items. However, the school's guidance is that any such 'forced searches' should be undertaken only if absolutely necessary, such as in extreme

circumstances where leaving a pupil with such a suspected item could pose risks to others (or that pupil), or mean that what might be the only opportunity to establish that such an item was in that pupil's possession as suspected is lost. If at all possible the best course of action is to refer the incident to the police.

Searches of personal property or school property, for example in a room or locker.

Staff may search school property, for example, pupils' lockers if they believe substances to be stored there. Prior consent should always be sought. Individuals should be made aware that if consent is refused the School may proceed with a search. However, where consent is refused, the School will balance the likelihood that an offence has been committed against the risk of infringing the individual's privacy without just cause.

Where a boarder's room is to be searched, the boarder should be given the opportunity to conduct the search personally by emptying out drawers etc. under direction from the members of staff present. If a boarder refuses to co-operate, and the circumstances are deemed to warrant a search by staff, then the room should be searched by staff, with at least two members of staff being present throughout. Any suspicious items should be placed in a plastic bag and sealed.

After any search involving pupils, parents/carers will normally be contacted by the School, regardless of whether the result of the search is positive or negative.

Confiscation and disposal

The law permits members of staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal substance. This will only be done by the Headmaster or a Deputy Head, with a second adult witness present. Details of the incident will be recorded and the sample will be sealed and stored in a secure location. The police will be informed and asked to collect the substance.

Other unauthorised substances (such as alcohol, tobacco and medicines) may be confiscated by members of staff in the presence of a second adult witness. Parents/carers will be informed and given the opportunity of collecting the item, before safe disposal.

Disposal will be organised by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and if required Medical Centre staff.

Informing parents

In any incident involving illegal and other unauthorised substances the school will normally involve the pupil's parents/carers at an early stage, explaining how the school intends to respond to the incident and to the pupil's needs. The advice, support and help of the Police will normally be sought.

The School's response

In considering the response to a particular incident, the following will apply:

- Each incident will be considered individually based on the particular set of circumstances
- The school will balance sanctions, support and education to ensure the well being of the school community.
- A range of responses/sanctions (as laid out in the school's disciplinary policy) may be used to respond to the identified needs of those involved including the support of outside agencies.
- It will normally be the case that anyone involved in the selling or supplying of illegal substances, or intending to sell or supply illegal substances, will be permanently excluded from the school.

Drug & Alcohol Education: Scheme from September 2016

KS3 Values (PSHE)

Relevant topics covered as part of the KS3 Values (PSHE) curriculum and assemblies:

Year 7

- Identifying and accessing help
- Being a support to others
- Relationships: friend; team; class
- Choices & Peer pressure
- Assertiveness
- Negotiation
- Coping strategies
- Choices about wellbeing
- Mental and emotion health
- Physical health
- Basic first aid

Year 8

- Being curious
- Peer pressure - strategies to deal with it
- What is courage?
- Standing up for yourself: self-esteem
- Risk and consequence
- Coping with adversity
- Supporting others
- Role of media on lifestyle
- Personal health – lifestyle
- Addaction workshop
- Amy Winehouse –Live Share

Year 9

- Risk and consequence
- Coping with adversity
- Managing influence
- Body image; eating disorders
- Addaction workshop
- Classification of drugs
- Consequences of breaking the law
- Effects of smoking and alcohol
- Media portrayal of body image
- Amy Winehouse –Live Share

KS4 Projects (PSHE)

Relevant topics covered as part of the KS4 Projects (PSHE) curriculum and assemblies:

Year 10

- Addaction workshop
- Amy Winehouse - Live Share
- Unit 2 'How Should I Behave' (Ethics)
- Effects of smoking
- Cost and impact of smoking
- Child tobacco workers
- Avoiding risk and alcohol
- Drugs on trial
- The why and who of drugs
- The big drugs debate
- Cannabis – decriminalisation ?
- Youth Crime: cause and effect
- Local crime

Year 11

- Making informed lifestyle choices
- Exploring strategies to help friends in trouble
- Maintaining genuine friendships
- Forgiveness
- Online friendships

Sixth Form CAVE

Relevant topics covered as part of the CAVE curriculum and assemblies:

Sixth Form

- Drugs awareness week
- Anti Smoking week
- Addaction workshop
- Amy Winehouse – Live Share