

DRUGS & DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

LVS Ascot is an independent co-educational, day and boarding school with pupils of all abilities and backgrounds from 4 to 18 years of age, taught within a Christian environment.

Definition of terms

The definition of a drug is:

A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave
(*United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*)

In this document the term 'drug' refers to:

- All illegal drugs
- All legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those that give off gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers)
- All over-the-counter prescription medicines

Mission

LVS has a zero tolerance policy on the misuse of drugs. However, we recognise that the use and abuse of drugs is a prevalent feature of our society and therefore have a thorough, relevant and supportive programme of drugs education in our PSHE delivery in order to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Specific Issues

Solvents and Aerosols

Many ordinary substances are open to abuse. It is the responsibility of the Head of Department to ensure that all solvents are stored safely in accordance with the Health and Safety policy. Students are not allowed to bring aerosols onto the premises.

Medication

Prescribed medication must be kept in the medical centre. If students require medication during the school day, parents must bring in a written request with clear dosage instructions and hand this over with the medication to the school nurse. The medicine needs to be clearly labelled with: contents, student's name and dosage. Students should not self-administer unless risk assessed by the medical centre. Analgesics, cough remedies and indigestion remedies can be obtained from the school nurse. Asthma inhalers and Epipens may be kept by senior students for their own use following risk assessment and with safe storage in boarding houses. Prior to entry all parents need to complete and sign a medical indemnity form.

Responding to drug related incidents

Emergency

If a student is in danger as the result of drug misuse, the following course of action should be taken:

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- Notify reception to first call an ambulance, and then ask for the school nurse to be sent to the scene
- Notify the Head/SMT
- Remove, in the presence of an adult witness, suspicious substances and retain in case required by medical staff
- Notify parents/guardian
- Record incident in writing in medical centre book and incident book (reception). Key staff (SMT, HoH) to be notified of incident in writing.

Intoxication

- Student may be removed to medical centre and must be accompanied by member of staff at all times
- Parents will be informed and asked to come to school to collect child
- The incident will be recorded in writing in the medical centre book and incident book (reception). Key staff (SMT, HoH) to be notified of incident in writing.

Discovery/observation

- If a student is discovered taking/supplying drugs, he/she will be taken to SMT
- SMT will seek to remove suspicious substances, in the presence of an adult witness
- Substances will be placed in a plastic bag, labelled (signed and dated by adult witness) and sealed
- Student and any witnesses questioned by SMT with adult witness present
- Written record made and signed by witness
- Parents informed and asked to attend school
- Head of School notified

Suspicion

- Any rumour needs to be sensitively investigated and evaluated against the school's knowledge of the pupil.
- SMT, Head of House and tutor informed
- Observation and monitoring of the pupil's behaviour by tutor and HoH in particular

If the student's behaviour is suspicious but there is no confirming evidence and the student denies being under the influence of drugs:

- Student will be removed from circulation
- Procedures and consequences explained
- Parents will be informed and invited to attend the interview
- Student will be interviewed by a member of SMT with one other adult witness present
- Locker, room search with second adult present
- Personal search* – pockets, bag – with second adult present**
- Written statement

* if the student refuses a personal search then this will be taken as an admission of guilt

**search to be conducted in line with the Search Policy

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- If a student continues to deny taking illegal drugs on premises/being under the influence of drugs and no substances have been found, the student will be asked to give a sample of urine (refusal to provide a sample is taken as an admission of guilt). Possession of drug-taking paraphernalia also indicates culpability.
- Parents informed and invited to attend
- Student goes to medical centre, accompanied by a member of SMT, HoH/tutor
- Student provides a urine sample privately and then delivers it to member of SMT in presence of HoH/tutor
- Member of SMT labels and seals the urine sample as instructed and sends by courier direct to laboratory

This procedure must be strictly adhered to in order to protect the student, ensuring that the sample is genuine and that it cannot be interfered with at any stage between collection and analysis.

Parents will be asked to take child away until results of test come back.

Result of urine test referred to Head of School who will communicate to student, parents/guardian and Head of House.

Sanctions

Drugs

If a student's behaviour suggests that he/she has come onto school premises intoxicated or heavily influenced by drugs and his/her behaviour shows a gross abuse of school rules then the Head of School and governors will review his/her position in the school and will ask the student to leave the school.

If the student's admits taking drugs on site; if the student is seen taking/supplying drugs; if drugs are found on the student or in his/her belongings; if the student's urine tests are positive, then:

- His/her parents will be invited to an interview with the Head of School
- Head of School, in consultation with the Governors, will ask the student to leave the school

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Rationale for drugs education

Drugs and their misuse have become increasingly common in our society. Children and young people will come into contact with drugs throughout their lifetime. LVS recognises its obligation to educate its students so that they are prepared for life in a society in which drugs are commonplace.

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Aims of drugs education

LVS aims to equip pupils with the information, skills and attitudes which will enable them to make informed, healthy choices to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

Objectives

To:

- Provide accurate information to students and parents about drugs, the law relating to them and LVS school rules
- Increase understanding about the implications and consequences of the use and misuse of drugs
- Provide opportunities to examine attitudes to drug use
- Promote the development of personal and social skills relating to health behaviour and provide the opportunity to practice them
- Enable young people to identify appropriate sources of personal support
- Develop and maintain pupils' self esteem

Staff with key responsibility for drugs education

The Deputy Head Pastoral is responsible for the implementation, coordination, delivery and monitoring of the drug programme at LVS.

Drugs education delivery

Drugs education is delivered within the framework of the PSHE programme. In addition to specific information about drugs and their use/misuse, LVS advocates the development of a positive, health-promoting ethos to encourage self esteem, which will help pupils cope more effectively in drug related situations.

Drugs education will be provided by tutors within a structured PSHE programme at both KS3, 4 and 5; in addition, visiting speakers (eg. Bracknell Youth Team Leaders, Youthline, McLelland, Jonnie Leach, DRED UK) and specialist drama groups (e.g. Learning through Action) will be integrated into the delivery. Key personnel will attend regular training programmes on drug awareness and the delivery of drug education in schools; this information will be cascaded to tutors to enhance their knowledge and delivery of the drug programme. Students will evaluate the drug education within their termly assessment of the PSHE programme.

Parents will be informed at key points during the drug education delivery. Relevant support documentation (e.g. Drugscope for parents published by FRANK) and websites will be sent to parents. In addition parents will be invited to talks given by DRED UK.

Information on drug support services will be available to all students through the student noticeboards, individual information cards and the medical centre.

Reviewed: 09.01.12

Reviewed by: C Cunniffe

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