

LVS ASCOT

DRUGS & DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

LVS Ascot ('the School') 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 broad 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)

For the purpose of this policy, the word 'drug' will be taken to mean drugs, forbidden substances and any substance that produces an intoxicating or hallucinating effect. There is a separate policy on alcohol but the following substances are included.

- All illegal drugs (those controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971)
- Misuse of over-the-counter and prescription medicines and so-called 'legal highs' including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances (those that give off gas or vapour which can be inhaled), ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrates (known as poppers).
- Drugs misused to enhance performance i.e. steroids

Mission

The School 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 (LV4Life) in order to promote a healthy lifestyle.

The aims of this policy are to be constructive and support those pupils most at risk and to deal with suspicions of drug taking and possession.

Any member of staff or parent concerned that a pupil might be involved with drugs should inform the pupil's tutor or Housemaster/mistress. The School will investigate rumours about involvement with drugs which may include, for example, questioning the pupil, testing for drugs, searching the pupil and/or their possessions (in accordance with the School's Search Policy). Parents may also be invited into the School to discuss the matter and the consequences of breaches of this policy.

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 on school site are stored safely in accordance with the Health and Safety policy. Pupils are not allowed to bring aerosols onto school premises.

Medication

Prescribed medication must be kept in the HWC. If pupils require medication during the school day, parents must bring in a written request with clear dosage instructions and hand

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this over with the medication to the School nurse. The medicine needs to be clearly labelled with contents, pupil's name and dosage. Pupils 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 pupils from Year 5 upwards 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 pupil is in danger as the result of drug misuse, the following course of action should be taken:

- Notify reception to first call an ambulance, and then ask for a member of the nursing team to be sent to the scene.
- Notify the Principal/a member of SMT.
- Remove, in the presence of an adult witness, suspicious substances and retain in case required by medical staff or required to be handed to the Police.
- Notify parents/guardian.
- Record the incident in writing in medical centre book and incident book (reception). Key staff (SMT, Housemaster/Mistress) to be notified of incident in writing.

Intoxication

- Pupil may be removed to HWC and must be accompanied by member of staff at all times.
- Parents/guardians will be informed and asked to come to school to collect their child.
- The incident will be recorded in writing in the HWC book and incident book (reception). Key staff (SMT, HM) to be notified of incident in writing.
- Pupils under the age of 18 should be made aware that it is a serious criminal offence for them to purchase or attempt to purchase alcohol, or to invite an adult to do so on their behalf.

Discovery/observation

- If a pupil is discovered taking/supplying drugs, SMT must be notified immediately.
- 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.
- Pupil and any witnesses questioned by SMT with adult witness present.
- Written record made and signed by witness.
- Parents informed and asked to attend school.
- Principal of School notified.

Suspicion

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

As part of our proactive policy of drugs' education, we reserve the right to search all areas of the School and property with the use of trained dogs. We emphasise that the aim of this procedure is deterrence.

Protocol

- Pupils to be made aware of this policy and the intention of implementation of this policy at any given time.
- The School may carry out a 'no notice' search of school property. All searches will be carried out in accordance with the Whole School Search policy.

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

- Procedures and consequences will be explained to the pupil.
- Pupil will be interviewed by a member of SMT with one other adult witness present.
- Locker and room may be searched with second adult present in accordance with the Whole School Search Policy.
- Personal search* – pockets, bag – may also be carried out with second adult present in accordance with the Whole School Search Policy.
- Written statement from pupil.

* If a pupil refuses a personal search then this will be taken as an admission of guilt.

- Where reasonable grounds for suspicion exist, the School may carry out a drugs' test. Drugs' testing is organised by the Deputy Head Pastoral in conjunction with the HWC. Reasonable endeavours will be made, before the drugs' test is conducted, to notify parents and explain the reasons why a drugs' test is required. For example, where a pupil continues to deny taking illegal drugs on school premises, or denies being under the influence of drugs although no substances have been found but the School has reasonable grounds for suspecting the pupil has used drugs. The School may draw adverse inferences from a pupil's refusal to participate in a drugs' test. Possession of drug-taking paraphernalia also indicates culpability.
- Pupil goes to HWC, accompanied by a member of SMT, HM/tutor, for the drugs' test, in the presence of HM/tutor.
- Parents informed by HM, with an opportunity to discuss the incident/event and the School policies and procedures acted upon.

Parents may be asked to take their child away until the test comes back, if the test used needs to be sent away for analysis.

Result of drugs' test referred to Principal, who will communicate to pupil, parents/guardian and HM.

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Informing the Police

Where illegal drugs are discovered, the Principal must be immediately informed. The sample will be sealed and stored in a secure location together with details of the date and time of the seizure and witnesses present. The Principal will inform the Police without delay and will keep a record of the incident together with the police incident reference number. Where there is any uncertainty about what the substance is, they should be treated as a controlled drug and reported to the Police as above.

Parents will usually be informed unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil to do so. The School will also consider whether the incident raises any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response.

Sanctions

Any response to a drug related incident will take into account all the relevant facts available and information about the pupil involved and the circumstances in which any drug related incident and the School's awareness of any such incident has come about. In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, they will be carefully considered.

Parents will always be invited into the School to discuss the incident with the Principal of School and the possible sanction. The decision to expel (whether temporary or permanent) will be the Principal of School's, following consultation with the Governors.

- A pupil who comes onto school premises intoxicated or heavily influenced by drugs may be expelled.
- Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be expelled.
- Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs whilst at school or otherwise under the School's jurisdiction (i.e. on school trips) may be expelled.
- A pupil who admits to taking drugs on school site or under the school's jurisdiction (i.e. school trips) or admits to taking/supplying drugs will be expelled.
- Where drugs are found on the pupil or in his/her belongings or the results of pupil's drugs' test are positive, the pupil may be expelled subject to all the circumstances of the case.

The Principal will consult the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of any drug where there are concerns that it may constitute a criminal offence.

The School may take action in accordance with this policy where it becomes known that drugs abuse is taking place outside school which may, as a result, bring the School's reputation into disrepute.

Solvent abuse is also a serious school offence. The School may react to solvent abuse in a similar way to other forms of drug abuse.

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DRUGS' EDUCATION POLICY

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. The School recognises its obligation to educate its pupils so that they are prepared for life in a society in which drugs are commonplace.

Aims of drugs education

The School 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 pupils and parents about drugs, the law relating to them and 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 the School.

Drugs' education delivery

Drugs education is delivered within the framework of the PSHE/LV4Life programme. In addition to specific information about drugs and their use/misuse, the School 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/LV4Life programme at all KS3, 4 and 5. In addition, where possible, visiting speakers and specialist drama groups 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 drugs' education programme. Pupils will evaluate the drugs' education programme within their termly assessment of the PSHE/LV4Life programme.

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

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Last reviewed: 10.10.18
Reviewed by: K.Olliver
Review no later than: 10.10.19