



LVS Ascot

A Co-educational Day & Boarding School
for young people aged 4 - 18

DRUGS & DRUG EDUCATION POLICY

Whole school

Relevant Statutory Regulations:	NMS 7
Nominated member of SMT responsible for the policy:	James Wilder and Laura Collins
Updated:	01 September 2024
Date of next review:	01 September 2025

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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 (Life Learning) 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 Deputy Head Wellbeing and DSL. The School will investigate suspicions 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 and Confiscation Policy). Parents may also be invited into the school to discuss the matter and the consequences of breaches of this policy.

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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. 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.

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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 Headteacher Wellbeing, Personal Conduct and DSL 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 Life Learning 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 Life Learning programme in all Keys Stages. In addition, where possible, visiting speakers and 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/Life Learning programme.

The Department for Education (DfE) statutory guidance for Health Education at Key Stage 3 and 4 builds upon the facts and risks associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use. At KS3 and KS4, this extends to the facts, laws, risks and consequences associated with drug, alcohol and tobacco use and the dangers that drugs prescribed, but still present serious health risks. It also considers the benefits of smoking cessation and how best to access support in relation to this.

Alongside the statutory requirements, teaching about how to manage social influence, pressure and risk is vital in promoting our pupils' ability to navigate the situations in which they may encounter substances. It also contributes to safeguarding, by providing our pupils with the knowledge, understanding, attributes, skills and strategies to keep themselves healthy and safe.

The teaching about drugs and alcohol is integrated within our planned LIFE LEARNING curriculum, where it aims to enhance and be enhanced by – teaching in other topic areas. For example, lessons on mental health and emotional wellbeing will include teaching healthy coping mechanisms and the importance of seeking support and help, which will feed into

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lessons on alcohol and other drugs and vice versa.