

DRUGS POLICY

Policy Aims

1. The aims of this policy are:
 - a. To support the School's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
 - b. To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
 - c. To support all the members of the School community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
 - d. To develop a whole School approach to drug education in the contexts of the curriculum of the School

School Ethos

2. The philosophy of the School is to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which students are enabled to develop educationally and personally. We aim to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives.

Rationale

3. It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug is potentially harmful. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects. See [National Curriculum Framework for PHSE](#), and Citizenship at Key Stages 3 & 4 for more details.

Definition of a Drug

4. A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol and tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter and prescription medicines.

Parental Involvement

5. Parents/carers are welcome to contact the School and talk with us about any concerns or questions they may have. We try to ensure parents/carers are aware of how to deal with drug education. Parents/carers are contacted as soon as the School has evidence of involvement of students in possession of unauthorised drugs.

Governors Involvement

6. The Governors' Student Welfare committee provides support to the school with drugs issues and education.

Drugs Education Principles

7. We believe that drug awareness is important for all members of staff and governors.
 - a. Drugs education in our School aims to enable all students to make healthy informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring a range of attitudes towards drug use and developing and practising decision making skills. The programme we follow is based on national and local guidelines for good practice and is appropriate to the age of experience of our students
 - b. We provide all students with drugs education as an integral part of our Personal Development Curriculum (PDC). Drugs education is also delivered through cross-curricular links with the science curriculum and other subjects, in addition to assemblies, and visits.
 - c. Teaching is based on an understanding that a variety of approaches should be used in order to meet the differing needs and learning styles of students. It is recognised that active or participatory learning styles can be particularly helpful in developing skills, knowledge and values

The PDC programme is evaluated on a regular basis through recorded student feedback and staff discussions.

Drugs on School Premises

8. The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, out buildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the School at the time e.g. premises of a School trip or visit.
 - a. Medicines - The School has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. As recommended by Oxfordshire Health and Safety guidelines our practice follows the guidance provided at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/healthandsafety/medical/>.
 - b. Alcohol - No alcohol will be consumed during the School day. Students found to be in possession of alcohol will be punished in line with the school Behaviour Policy and the alcohol will be confiscated. If students are found to be under the influence of alcohol parents will be informed and the students will be sent home. A sanction in line with the School Behaviour Policy will be applied. Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises
 - c. Smoking - The School is a no smoking area at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to School smoking materials, including matches and lighters. Should a student be found in possession of any of these on School premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. We reserve the right to search known smokers (and their known associates) for smoking materials
 - d. Illegal drugs - No illegal drugs are allowed to be brought on to, or used on School premises. The school reserves the right to search students for drugs and associated paraphernalia
 - e. Solvents - The School will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact

with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of solvents which may be inhaled

Responses to Drug Related Incidents

9. A drug related incident may be any of the following:
 - a. Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on School premises.
 - b. Possession of drugs by an individual on School premises.
 - c. Use of drugs by an individual on School premises.
 - d. Supply of /dealing of drugs on School premises.
 - e. Individuals disclosing information about their drug use.
 - f. Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs.
 - g. Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs.

10. At Larkmead School we aim to establish and maintain an environment in which the school is free from the misuse of any drugs. The safety and welfare of our students is paramount. Appropriate support will be provided. A case conference will be called if necessary.
 - a. Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions will vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.
 - b. Appropriate searches will be made. (The DfES guidance document '[Drugs: Guidance for Schools](#)' February 2004 outlines clear guidelines for the detection of drugs in schools).
 - c. Exclusion from School either fixed term or permanent will be considered. In the case of possession with intent to supply, the exclusion will be permanent.
 - d. In all cases we work in close partnership with the police.

References

11. The following documents or publications are to be considered in conjunction with this policy document.
 - a. A Quick Guide to Drugs

Review

12. This policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body Student Welfare Committee every 3 years or sooner if circumstances dictate.

July 2013