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# Hassocks

## **Anti- smoking & Substance Misuse Policy**

**Agreed by:** Sarah Sherwood

**Policy Review Date:** August 2024

**Date of Policy:** 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017

**Next Review due:** August 2025

## **Aims**

The aims of this policy are to:

- Clarify the school's approach to drugs for staff, students, Governors, parents/carers and to clarify the legal requirements and responsibilities
- Clarify the school's approach to smoking and vaping
- Give guidance to staff on the school's drug and education programme
- Safeguard the health and safety of students and staff in our school
- Enable staff to manage drug related incidents properly

## **Terminology**

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.

- 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 amyl nitrates (known as poppers).
- Drugs misused to enhance performance i.e. steroids
- Misuse of solvents and aerosols
- CBD oil and other variants

LVS Hassocks believes that the presence of unauthorised drugs in school is not acceptable (substances such as cannabis, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and other controlled drugs). We want our school to be a safe place for us all to work, and the presence of unauthorised drugs represents a threat to our health and safety. The School has a zero-tolerance policy on the misuse of drugs, therefore all incidences of misuse will be investigated. We recognise that the use and abuse of drugs is a feature of our society and therefore have a thorough, relevant and supportive programme of drugs education in our PSHE programme.

## **Responsibilities:**

The Principal will:

- Ensure that staff and parents are informed about this drugs policy
- Ensure that the policy is implemented effectively
- Manage any drug related incidents
- Ensure that staff are given sufficient training, so that they can teach effectively about drugs, and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity
- Liaise with external agencies regarding the school drugs education programme

- Monitor the policy on a day to day basis, and report to Governors, when requested, on the effectiveness of the policy

The Governing body will:

- Designate a Governor with specific oversight of drugs education (Governor with responsibility for Teaching and Learning)
- Establish general guidelines on drugs education
- Support the Principal in following these guidelines
- Liaise with local authorities and health organisations, so that the school's policy is in line with the best advice available

Drugs education should enable students to develop their knowledge, attitudes and understanding about drugs, and to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle, relating this to their own and other's actions. It should:

- Build on knowledge and understanding
- Provide accurate information and clarify misunderstanding
- Explore attitudes and values, and examine the risks and consequences of actions relating to drugs
- Develop students' interpersonal skills, their understanding of rules and laws, and their self-awareness and self-esteem
- Ensure that all children are taught about drugs in a consistent manner, following guidelines that have been agreed by Governors, staff and parents

LVS Hassocks regards drugs education as a whole school issue and believes that opportunities to teach about the importance of a healthy lifestyle occur naturally throughout the curriculum, but especially in science and PSHE /Lifeskills.

- Students will learn about visiting the doctor, visiting the chemist and the importance of medicines and their safe handling
- Students will learn that alcohol is the most widely used drug, and that its dangers can be overlooked. We will ensure that our students are aware of the risks associated with drinking, particularly if they are on medication.
- Students will learn that smoking and vaping are minority habits and encourage them to consider their effects and risks. We also teach students about the dangers of volatile substance abuse, because of the high risk of accidental death, especially for first-time and occasional abusers
- We aim to teach all students about drugs, however different their attainment levels and however diverse their requirements. We recognise that our students may be more vulnerable, that different communities have different attitudes towards drug abuse, and that some students may have drug-abusing parents
- Drugs education takes place during normal lesson time and will sometimes be supported by the school nurse or another health professional.

### **Drug Incidents**

- An incident involving unauthorised drugs in school is most likely to involve alcohol, tobacco or volatile substances rather than illegal drugs.
- The first priority is safety and first aid, i.e. calling the emergency services and placing unconscious people in the recovery position.

- An intoxicated student does not represent a medical emergency, unless unconscious. Students suspected of being intoxicated from inhaling a volatile substance will be kept calm to avoid placing an intolerable strain on their heart.
- Any drug suspected of being illegal will be confiscated and stored securely, awaiting disposal; these precautions must be witnessed and recorded. Staff should not taste unknown or confiscated substances.
- Legal but unauthorised drugs or medicines will also be confiscated, and will be returned to parents; the school may arrange for the safe disposal of volatile substances
- Where a student is suspected of concealing an unauthorised drug staff are not permitted to carry out a personal search, but may search a student's bags, locker etc.
- A full record will be made of any incident
- The Principal will conduct an investigation into the nature and seriousness of any incident, in order to determine an appropriate response.

## Informing the Police

Where any drugs, or substances believed to be 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 police will be informed.

### **The role of parents/carers**

The school is well aware that the primary role in children's drugs education lies with parents/carers. We wish to build a positive and supporting relationship with the parents/carers of our students, through mutual understanding, trust and co-operation. To promote this objective, we will:

- Inform parents/carers about the school substance misuse policy
- Answer any questions that parents/carers may have about the drugs education that their child receives in school
- Take seriously any issue which parents/carers raise with teachers or Governors about this policy, or about arrangements for drugs education in school
- Inform parents/carers about the best practice known with regard to drugs education, so that they can support the key messages being given to children at school

When an incident concerning unauthorised drugs has occurred in school, and a student is involved, we will inform the parents/carers and explain how we intend to respond to the incident.

Staff will be cautious about discharging a student to the care of an intoxicated adult, particularly when the adult intends driving the student home. The focus will be on the student's welfare and safety and staff will suggest an alternative arrangement. If the behaviour of an intoxicated adult repeatedly places a child at risk, or the adult becomes abusive or violent, staff should consider whether the circumstances of the case are serious enough to invoke child protection procedures and possibly the involvement of the police.

## Sanctions

Any response to a drug related incident will take into account all the relevant facts and circumstances available and information about the student(s) involved. All relevant facts and circumstances must be

disclosed at the first opportunity to do so. Subsequent versions, submitted at a later date, may not be considered. Parents/carers will always be invited to discuss the incident with the Principal and explore the possible sanction(s).

The decision to exclude (whether temporary or permanent) will be the Principal's, following consultation with the Governors and at all times in accordance with the School's Exclusion Policy.

For the avoidance of doubt:-

- A student on school premises intoxicated or under the influence of drugs will be excluded.
- Any student selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will be excluded.
- Anyone caught possessing or consuming drugs whilst at school or otherwise under the School's jurisdiction (e.g. on school trips) will be excluded.
- Where drugs are found on a student or in their belongings the student will be excluded.

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

## Smoking and Vaping

LVS Hassocks operates a no smoking policy at all times. This includes the smoking of tobacco, or tobacco substitute devices or alternatives, such as e-cigarettes, APVs - Advanced Personal Vaporisers (vapes) - or any shisha devices, regardless of the absence of smoke, nicotine, tar or tobacco.

### Possession

Possession of tobacco, cigarette papers, E-liquid and smoking/vaping paraphernalia, such as lighters, matches and any vaping accessories also indicates culpability and the individual(s) will be subject to sanctions as determined appropriate by the school. The school reserves the right to carry out random site searches and searched of personal belongings for smoking/vaping paraphernalia. Refusal will be taken as an admission of guilt and/or an indication that the student has been using the paraphernalia to smoke, and the school may take appropriate action which will include disciplinary action. If caught in possession of smoking related material, this will be confiscated and handed to the Principal.

### Action against those caught smoking on site (or on school trips)

All students determined to have been smoking tobacco, using e-cigarettes, APVs, or a shisha device, on the LVS Hassocks campus (or on a school related trip) will be subject to sanctions. For a first offence, this will likely be a fixed term suspension in discussion with the parents to clearly signal the seriousness of the offence, although the school may apply an alternative sanction which may be more than this, if it considers it appropriate.