

# Longdean School



## Drugs Education Policy

Reviewed: October 2014  
Ratified: October 2014  
Next review: October 2015

## Drugs Education Policy

### Policy Statement:

We believe that the purpose of drug education should be to give the students the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy life-style and to relate to their own actions, both now and in the future. We aim to provide a caring community in which students learn to grow and develop as responsible and self-confident citizens in our society.

### Definition of Terms:

A drug is a substance which alters the way your mind or body works. There are thousands of different drugs. Some of them are natural products, found in plants and trees. Others are synthetic products, which are manufactured by chemical process. Drugs can be divided into three categories – medicinal drugs, social drugs and illegal drugs.

### Aims:

- To enable young people to make healthy, informed choices through increasing their knowledge, challenging and exploring attitudes and developing and practicing skills.
- To help young people to develop a sense of self-awareness and self-esteem
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and abuse
- To listen to young people's thoughts, feelings and concerns and to ensure that drug education responds to their needs
- To help young people distinguish between different substances, consider their use, misuse, benefit and harm
- To counter any inaccurate messages which young people receive about drugs
- To encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience drug use (including those dependent on medical drugs)
- To widen understanding about related health, social and legal issues
- To enable children to identify where help and support can be found
- To develop as a Health Promoting School

### Aims into Practice:

- To make Longdean School a health promoting environment
- To provide drug education for parents, carers and the community
- To make available information about drugs and drug use to children and young people
- To ensure the school's premises are a safe environment with respect to drugs
- To provide the pupils with satisfaction, challenge, pleasure, emotional variety and excitement through a range of activities
- To have in place a policy on drug education (or at least to have considered the educational aspects of the school's work on drugs)

- To be prepared to talk to pupils about drug -related problems and offer them, appropriate advice
- To help pupils to develop decision making skills
- To help pupils develop their self esteem

Intended Outcomes:

- To provide a co-ordinated and consistent approach to the curriculum and to possible drug related incidents
- To provide an appropriate teaching programme which responds to pupils needs
- To have clearly defined learning outcomes for lessons and other outputs
- To reinforce key messages at different ages and stages and in different situations
- To provide content and teaching approaches, which match the needs and maturities of all pupils, including those with special education needs and English as an additional language
- To integrate the drug education programme into the curriculum
- To involve the whole community, including staff, governors, parents, pupils and relevant visitors
- To provide training and support for staff in the planning and delivery of the drug education programme
- To regularly revise the policy and practice
- To recognize that adults are role models for pupils and commit ourselves to a smoke-free environment; working in partnership with parents and carers and finding ways to avoid the need for over the counter drugs, such as finding a quiet room for headache sufferers

**Responding to incidents involving drugs in Longdean School**

**Note.** “Drugs” refer to all drugs including medicines, volatile substances, alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

**Drugs or paraphernalia found on school premises**

1. Remove drug/paraphernalia
2. Temporarily store drug securely in a designated place
3. Record the details with a witness present
4. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
5. If illegal drug: notify police without delay, who will arrange for collection or disposal according to locally agreed protocols. There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupil’s name
6. Insert contact details for local police
7. If legal: alcohol, tobacco or medicines can be returned to parent/carer or the drug can be disposed of safely
8. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
9. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

### Pupil in **possession** of unauthorised drug

1. Remove drug/paraphernalia
2. Temporarily store drug securely in a designated place
3. Record the details with a witness present
4. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
5. Inform parent/carer if appropriate and does not place the child at risk
6. If illegal drug: notify police without delay, who will arrange for collection or disposal according to locally agreed protocols. There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupil's name
7. If legal: alcohol, tobacco or medicines can be returned to parent/carer or the drug can be disposed of safely
8. Identify the needs of those involved, making a careful assessment of all the circumstances
9. Decide upon appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other services
10. Provide parents and pupils with access to further sources of information/support
11. Seek outside support/advice if appropriate. Those who may be involved are: LEA; school health team; child protection officer; police; YOT; Connexions; youth and community services; specialist agencies
12. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
13. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

### Pupil **supplying** an unauthorised drug

1. Remove drug/paraphernalia
2. Temporarily store drug securely in a designated place
3. Record the details with a witness present
4. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
5. Inform parent/carer if appropriate and does not place the child at risk
6. If illegal drug: notify police without delay, who will arrange for collection or disposal according to locally agreed protocols. There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupil's name
7. If legal: alcohol, tobacco or medicines can be returned to parent/carer or the drug can be disposed of safely
8. Identify the needs of those involved, making a careful assessment of all the circumstances
9. Decide upon appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other services
10. Provide parents and pupils with access to further sources of information/support
11. Seek outside support/advice if appropriate. Those who may be involved are: LEA; school health team; child protection officer; education welfare officer; police; YOT; Connexions; youth and community services; specialist agencies

12. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
13. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

### Pupil under the influence of a drug (including misuse of a medicine)

#### **Medical emergency**

- Call for medical help/ambulance
- Follow first-aid procedures until help arrives
- Ensure safety and well-being of other pupils e.g. onlookers

#### **No medical emergency**

- Keep pupil calm and under observation
  - If intoxicated consider asking parent/carer to collect child
  - Ensure safety and well-being of other pupils e.g. onlookers
1. Remove drug/paraphernalia
  2. Temporarily store drug securely in a designated place
  3. Record the details with a witness present
  4. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
  5. Inform parent/carer if appropriate and does not place the child at risk
  6. If illegal drug: notify police without delay, who will arrange for collection or disposal according to locally agreed protocols. There is no legal obligation to divulge a pupil's name
  7. Insert contact details for local police
  8. If legal: alcohol, tobacco or medicines can be returned to parent/carer or the drug can be disposed of safely
  9. Identify the needs of those involved, making a careful assessment of all the circumstances
  10. Decide upon appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other services
  11. Provide parents and pupils with access to further sources of information/support
  12. Seek outside support/advice if appropriate. Those who may be involved are: LEA; school health team; child protection officer; education welfare officer; police; YOT; Connexions; youth and community services; specialist agencies
  13. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
  14. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

### Disclosure of drug use

- Pupil's own drug use
- Parent's/carer's drug use
- Parent's/carer's concern about their child's drug use

1. Offer further advice/information. Further action may not be necessary for all disclosures e.g. smoking a cigarette. Consider whether drug use could be problematic or indicate other problems requiring further action
2. Consider issues of confidentiality and explain issues to pupils/parents involved
3. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
4. Inform parent/carer if appropriate and does not place the child at risk
5. Identify the needs of those involved, making a careful assessment of all the circumstance
6. Decide upon appropriate response – curriculum, pastoral, disciplinary or referral to other services
7. Provide parents and pupils with access to further sources of information/support
8. Seek outside support/advice if appropriate. Those who may be involved are: LEA; school health team; child protection officer; education welfare officer; police; YOT; Connexions; youth and community services; specialist agencies
9. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
10. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

**Illegitimate sale/supply of drugs (legal or illegal) in the school vicinity**

1. If suspected to be illegal, schools should decide whether to inform the police. There is no legal obligation but not to do so may be counterproductive. This includes the illegitimate sale of prescribed medicines (e.g. Ritalin).
2. If alcohol, tobacco or solvents, schools may wish to inform police or trading standards officer.
3. Inform Headteacher or designated member of staff, who will begin further investigation
4. Inform other staff, LEA or Local Authority and parents/carers if appropriate
5. Record all decisions and monitor the outcome for the pupil and school community
6. Review effectiveness of policy and practice

Sanctions for incidents involving drugs in Longdean School depend on the nature and details of the incident. However, any legal or illegal drug use either possession of, use of or dealing in, may result in permanent exclusion for the individual(s) involved.