

Liverpool College

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Policy



Mission Statement

Liverpool College values the dignity of each individual and promotes the development of character and learning through a commitment to high standards within a caring community.

Core Values

We recognise that all pupils have different talents and strive to ensure that every pupil has an equal opportunity to find and develop the talents they do possess


We believe that the development of character, creativity, intellect and spirituality, are the primary aims of education.

We work together to create a happy and caring school community which is engaged in our local community and the wider world

We pursue high standards in every area of school life

This is a whole college policy and applies to the Primary and Secondary Phase, Boarding, Breakfast Club and after school activities.



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| Approved Date | 1 st April 2023 | | |
| Review Date | 1 st April 2024 | | |
| Signed Principal |  | Print name | Mr H Broekman |

Liverpool College

Drug Education and Prevention Policy

Introduction

The Governing Body is committed to ensuring that Liverpool College is a healthy school, free from the misuse of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and other substances. Illegal drugs should never be in school. Legal drugs are only allowed when they are medicines agreed by the Principal for use in school under the Administration of Medicines policy. We believe that it is the College's responsibility to educate our pupils and to help them develop into mature young people able to say no to drugs and other substances. This policy emphasises the College's pastoral role and proactive approach to drug education and its clear procedure for handling any incidents of drug misuse.

Roles and Responsibilities

Governing Body

- to approve and monitor the implementation of this policy.

Principal

- to investigate any drugs related incident in accordance with the protocols outlined above.
- to inform the Governing Body and any relevant external organisations of drugs related incidents that have been investigated.

Vice Principal (Education)

- ensure that all staff and pupils are aware of the policy and its implications.
- ensure the training and support of staff.

Assistant Principals

- liaise with the Local Authority's Drug Adviser and Merseyside Police as appropriate.
- coordinate any investigations.

Personal Development Lead

- co-ordinates relevant drugs and alcohol education programme as part of the Personal Development programme.

All Staff

- are expected to know this policy and seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support the policy

Definition

A drug is any substance which affects how a person thinks, feels or behaves (WHO). For the purpose of this document the term **“drugs and alcohol”** will be used to include, alcohol, tobacco, medicines (see also policy for Administration of Medicines), volatile substances, new psychoactive substances (so called legal highs) as well as illegal drugs.

Legal drugs that should not be in school include common ones such as:

- alcohol
- tobacco
- E-cigarettes and vapes
- solvents
- new psycho-active substances NPS (previously known as legal highs)
- over the counter drugs
- prescribed drugs (except those agreed by the Principal under the Administration of Medicines policy).

Illegal drugs which must never be in school include but is not restricted to the following:

- CNS depressants, e.g. heroin
- CNS stimulants, e.g. crack/cocaine
- hallucinogens, e.g. LSD
- cannabis
- ecstasy.

Drugs Education

The Vice Principal (Education) will ensure that there is a planned drugs education programme, covering legal and illegal drugs, including alcohol and tobacco, as part of the personal development programme (and other appropriate areas of the curriculum e.g. Science).

The programme will:

- inform pupils about drugs and alcohol and their effects
- promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle
- increase pupils’ understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs, and alcohol
- inform pupils about the courses of action open to them if they or people they know become, or might become, involved in drugs activity
- inform pupils about support and resources available in school and outside school.

The detailed programme will be co-ordinated by the Personal Development Lead in consultation with relevant staff.

Action to be taken in Incidents Involving Misuse of Drugs

It is vitally important that staff, pupils and parents should be clear about the action that will be taken in any drug related incident.

1. Staff should ensure that all cases of misuse of drugs, or suspected misuse, are reported to the appropriate Assistant Principal. All confiscated substances must also be handed to the appropriate Assistant Principal in the first instance. The AP must then report any instances to the Principal and VP (Education).

2. In a case where possession of a substance is suspected, staff must report this to the Deans and the Senior Leadership Team who have the authority to search students' bags and outer clothing.
3. In all instances involving substance misuse or supply, on the college premises, parents will be informed, and their co-operation sought.
4. If drugs, alcohol or tobacco (including E-cigarettes) are discovered on a school visit or trip, the member of staff in charge of the party should use their discretion on the appropriate action at the time, and should inform parents and the Assistant Principal and relevant Dean as soon as is reasonably practical. Normal procedures will be followed once the pupil returns to school. In some circumstances the pupil may need to return from the visit immediately, in which case parent's co-operation will be sought.
5. The College will consider each drug incident separately and judge the appropriate response, bearing in mind the circumstances of the case, and the need to balance the interests of the pupil, other members of the school and the wider community.
6. The Governing Body believe that it is essential that parents and pupils are clear about the normal sanction that will be applied in particular instances, as follows:

Supply of legal and illegal drugs

- A pupil who supplies any drugs or other substances (whether legal or illegal, and regardless of the seriousness of the use) on the school premises will normally be permanently excluded **for a first offence**

'Supply' includes retailing drugs on the premises, communicating with a drug dealer on behalf of another pupil of the school, introducing fellow pupils to a drug dealer, and any other instance of procuring legal or illegal drugs for him/herself or other pupils. The Police will usually be informed.

'Supply' includes supplying for money or free-of-charge.

In the case of the supply of a drug which is legal (including over-the-counter drugs) the Principal will assess the seriousness of the incident before deciding on the appropriate action, which may include exclusion either permanently or for a fixed period. Before making a decision on exclusion the Principal will ensure that a thorough investigation has been carried out.

Possession of legal and illegal drugs

- A pupil who has any legal or illegal drugs, including alcohol and cigarettes (including E-cigarettes), in his/her possession will normally be excluded for a fixed period **for a first offence**, to be determined by the Principal, after considering all the circumstances of the case. Possession of drugs may lead to permanent exclusion.
- For a **second offence** the Principal will determine whether a further fixed- term exclusion is appropriate, or whether it is appropriate to exclude permanently. In coming to a decision, the Principal will take into account any medical/police/social service/ drug adviser reports that may be available, and consider whether further counselling is appropriate. Where the Principal is contemplating exclusion for a drug-related offence he will consult the Assistant Principal and VP (Education), and take any other advice he deems appropriate.
- The Principal will also determine what counselling needs to be provided and/or other action needs to be taken during or after the exclusion.

Offences outside the School

Pupils whose conduct in regard to drugs and illegal substances outside of school has brought them in contact with the police or whose conduct has damaged the reputation of the College may be permanently excluded depending on the seriousness of their involvement and the degree of damage to the College's reputation.

Boarders

Smoking and the consumption of alcohol or possession of drugs is not allowed at any time in the school boarding halls or their grounds, which are included within the Smoke Free Policy.

Involvement of the Police and other agencies

Although there is no legal duty to inform the police of any drug incident in the school, Governing Body policy is that the Principal will determine whether to inform the police and/or social services. The Governing Body cannot knowingly allow the premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of cannabis or opium. Where the school suspects that drugs are being sold on the premises, all relevant suspicions and information will be passed to the police.

Possible Signs

Pupils who are involved in drug and substance abuse may show changes in behaviour, such as becoming withdrawn, lethargic and lacking in motivation. They may show changes in their work patterns, may lack concentration, be repeatedly late or even truant from school. The College will always investigate any rumours or suspicions of drug misuse in an appropriate manner.

Advice to staff dealing with a person who is suspected to be under the influence of a drug or alcohol:

The paramount concern of the college will be the safety and well-being of all pupils. If necessary, the incident should be dealt with as a medical emergency, administering First Aid and summoning appropriate support. Depending on the circumstances, parents or the police may need to be contacted. If the child is felt to be at risk, the Safeguarding Policy will come into effect. The following guidelines should be followed:

- Stay calm
- Check the safety of the abuser (pupil/student) and if necessary call 999, emergency services. If the abuser (pupil/student) is not in immediate danger, call for a first aider.
- Place in recovery position if appropriate, and check airways.
- Remain with the pupil, if possible, particularly if intoxicated or unconscious
- Collect any obvious evidence of what has been taken
- Make a clear record of what has been discovered and observed
- Inform the Dean and Assistant Principal who will investigate further

Related Policies

HS06 Smoke Free

PD07 Behaviour Management

CP01 Safe guarding and Protection

TL02 Curriculum

PD08 Exclusions

HS04 Supporting Children with Medical Conditions

PD09 Searching pupils

TL08 Learning outside the Classroom/Educational Visits

References

Drugs, Guidance in Schools DFE (2012)

AFDAM 020 7553 7640 www.adfam.org.uk
Information for families of drug users, website has a database of local family support services

Drug Concern 0845 1203745
Helpline for parents concerned about drug abuse

FRANK www.talktofrank.com
The National drug awareness campaign 24 hour helpline 0800 776600

Parentline Plus www.parentlineplus.org.uk
Support and information for parents

Think About Drink www.wrecked.co.uk
Information on alcohol for young people

Addaction www.addaction.co.uk
Information and advice on drug addiction

Home Office Statistical Bulletin <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk>
British Crime Survey

Government Policy

Department of Health (2011) *Healthy lives, healthy people: a tobacco control plan for England*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-tobacco-control-plan-for-england>

Department of Health (2012) *The Government's Alcohol Strategy*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-strategy>

Department of Health (2010) *Drug Strategy: reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery*
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-strategy-2010--2>