

LUTTERWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Reviewed: By the Achievement and Attainment Committee

Adopted: By the Governing Board 05/10/2021

Signed: Chair of Governors: Janet Price-Jones

Date: 05/10/2021

Signed: Headteacher: Julian Kirby

Date: 05/10/2021

Review Date 10/2023

LUTTERWORTH HIGH SCHOOL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

1. Statement of Values

Lutterworth High School believes that a healthy lifestyle should be the entitlement of everyone in the school community, students and staff. We are committed to the health and welfare of all our students in a safe environment. We acknowledge our shared responsibility with parents and the community for making sure that we play our part in meeting national and local concerns in relation to drug and alcohol education and substance misuse. To that end:-

- Lutterworth High School will promote the health and safety of all members in the school community through the curriculum, it offers and the day to day procedures governing the conduct of the school.
- Lutterworth High School is committed to supporting the welfare of the students in its care through its formal and informal pastoral structures. We will encourage young people in their confidence to use these structures when they are in need of support. The best interests of the individual as well as the needs of the whole school community will always be taken into account.
- We believe that health education has an important place within the PSHE programme of the school and that every student has an entitlement to participate in and benefit from health education opportunities.
- Lutterworth High School forbids the misuse of legal drugs nor the use of illegal substances by members of the school, nor the illegal supply of them and we shall take appropriate steps to deal with any such incidences which may occur.
- Lutterworth High School forbids the misuse of alcohol by members of the school, nor the supply of them to others and we shall take appropriate steps to deal with any such incidences which may occur.
- Lutterworth High School believes in the importance of the partnership with parents, with the local community and with the various specialist agencies (statutory and voluntary) in the matter of promoting a healthy lifestyle. It is our policy to ensure that effective and appropriate communication is an essential part of the procedures we adopt for managing the drugs and alcohol education programme in this school and for dealing with any drugs or alcohol related incident.
- We are a responsible employer and take our duties under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 seriously. For this reason we have formulated a Work Place Alcohol Policy to help us comply with our legal duties. These include providing a safe place and a safe system of work for staff and others who may be affected by their activities. We recognise that drinking before or whilst present at work could have serious health and safety implications for the School. As a result our Work Place Alcohol Policy sets out the School's position on alcohol in the workplace. Due to its importance, this policy also forms part of our Health and Safety Policy.

2. Educational Aims and Objectives

In response to our shared concerns at a local and national level, we wish to state that as part of its care for the welfare of our students the school believes it has a duty to inform and educate young people on the consequences of drug and alcohol use and misuse. The school takes a pro-active stance on this matter, believing that health education is a vital part of the PSHE programme and curriculum provision for every student.

Fundamental to our school's values and practise is the principle of sharing the responsibility for education of young people with parents, by keeping them informed and involved at all times.

Whilst we acknowledge that the numbers of young people who use and misuse substances is rising, it is seen as important to recognise that larger numbers of young people are choosing not to use or misuse substances.

We believe and support the following educational aims in respect of substance use and misuse:

- To promote and develop positive attitudes and behaviour towards good health
- To enable students to make healthy informed choices
- To seek to reduce risks to young people and reduce harm
- To help students develop decision-making skills which will assist them in dealing with problems and pressures
- To provide accurate information about substances and to increase understanding about the effects of their use and misuse
- To widen understanding about related health issues e.g. crime, sex and sexuality, HIV and AIDS, sexual violence and consent
- To detail how drug and alcohol related incidents will be handled
- To identify how student support will be provided
- To define how training and support will be provided to staff
- To determine what the involvement of other agencies will be
- To determine what the involvement of parents will be.

These aims are fulfilled through aspects of the students' experiences in the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through opportunities for extra-curricular activities. We teach about the use and misuse of drugs in the taught curriculum mainly through, RE, Science and PSHE, but other opportunities to reinforce learning will occur in other parts of the teaching programme. The school actively co-operates with other agencies such as Community Police, Social Services, LA and Health and Drug Agencies to deliver its commitment to Drugs Education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

3. The Roles of the Headteacher and Governing Body

The head teacher takes overall responsibility for the policy and its implementation, for liaison with the Governing Body, parents, LA and appropriate outside agencies. The head teacher will ensure that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

In instances involving the supply or use of illegal substances on school premises parents will be contacted. The school will consider each substance incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with incidents. The school will consider very carefully the implications of any action it may take. It seeks to balance the interests of the pupil involved, the other school members and the local community. Permanent exclusion is likely in order to protect other students in the school.

There is no legal obligation to inform the police, though they may be able to give relevant support and advice. However, a school cannot knowingly allow its premises to be used for the production or supply of any controlled drug, or the preparation or smoking of drugs. Where it is suspected that substances are being sold on the premises, details regarding those involved as well as much information as possible, will be passed to the Police.

The Governing Body will be involved in substance education and substance related incidents in the same manner as any other matter concerning the direction of the school.

Regarding the welfare of staff, the school will follow the County Council Policy on Drug and Alcohol Misuse as part of its Health and Safety Policy, which is designed to reduce to a minimum the possible effects of substance misuse on the user, other employees and the environment.

The head teacher will take responsibility for liaison with the media. As the issue of substance misuse is an emotive one, and is likely to generate interest from the local and national media, the school will take appropriate advice and guidance from the LA Press Office and Legal Department to ensure that any reporting of incidents remains in the best interests of the young people, their families and the school. Where LA schools are concerned, the LA should be informed as soon as possible. This may be done via the LA Adviser for Drugs Education, or the School Support Officer.

The school follows the advice issued by the Department for Education in its publications relating to "Drug Advice to Schools" - https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf