

Lisneal College

Pastoral School Document



Drugs Education Policy

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Introduction and Rationale

Lisneal College does not condone the misuse of drugs but recognises that there has been a considerable increase in the abuse of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland. Drug misuse appears to be affecting an ever – younger population and the so called “recreational” use of drugs can lead to a dangerous acceptance of illegal and harmful drug misuse as part of everyday life.

We believe that this school has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include drugs education on our curriculum. This programme is delivered via whole school Health Education themes, Learning for Life & Work and Science.

Lisneal College sees its role as that of a caring community, committed to the physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual health, safety and well-being of our pupils and staff.

Where appropriate, the implementation of this policy will operate in tandem with other relevant school policies including:

- *Promoting Positive Behaviour;*
- *Pastoral Care;*
- *Child Protection;*

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy the term 'drugs' will include any substance which, when taken, alters the way the body works or the way a person behaves, feels, sees or thinks.

As well as everyday substances such as tea and coffee, drugs include:

- Alcohol;
- Tobacco / e-cigarettes;
- 'Over-the-counter' medicines, such as paracetamol;
- Prescribed drugs, such as antibiotics, tranquillisers, inhalers and Ritalin;
- Volatile substances, such as correcting fluids/thinners, gas lighter fuel, aerosols, glues and petrol;
- Controlled drugs, such as Cannabis, LSD, Ecstasy, Amphetamine sulphate (speed), magic mushrooms, Heroin and Cocaine;
- Other substances such as amyl/butyl nitrite ('poppers') and legal highs as well as performance enhancing drugs.
- Substances which has been found to be contained in e-liquid to be taken through vaping such as 'THC' and 'Spice'.
- All other substances construed as 'legal highs' under current and future legislation.

Ethos

We in Lisneal College have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. This ethos aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities in which all our young people can learn and develop their full potential.

Aims and Objectives

Aims

- Our ultimate aim is to protect young people from the harm associated with the use and misuse of drugs so that they will know how to make healthy, informed choices through increased knowledge, developing a positive self-image, challenging their attitudes and developing and practising the skills needed to resist temptation.
- To establish an environment free from the misuse of all substances.

Objectives

- To have a clear and agreed understanding among everyone in the school community about the implications and possible consequences of drug use/misuse.
- To provide all staff (teaching and non-teaching) with training and support to enable them to deal effectively and confidently with incidents of suspected drug misuse, and to ensure that the agreed procedures are consistently and sensitively applied in all situations.
- To empower teaching staff through appropriate training and support to develop and deliver an effective drug education programme (where appropriate, further advice and support will be sought from the appropriate statutory/external agencies [see Appendix I]).
- To provide a drugs education programme which:
 - Develops pupils' self-esteem and promotes positive attitudes in their relationships with others;
 - Gives pupils opportunities to develop the values, skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to make informed and responsible decisions about the use/misuse of drugs including Tobacco / e-cigarettes, alcohol and volatile substances, within the context of a healthy lifestyle;
 - Helps pupils develop the skills necessary to assert themselves confidently and resist negative pressures and influences.
- To provide appropriate support and assistance for those pupils affected by drug-related issues by referring to the appropriate external agencies at the discretion of the school (see Appendix I) whilst ensuring the support being offered is appropriate and not conflicting with support offered by other bodies.
- To inform parents of the content of this policy and the procedures to be implemented in the management of incidents of suspected drug misuse.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

- Be aware of and adhere to school rules in relation to drug use/misuse, including Tobacco / e-cigarettes, alcohol, over-the-counter and prescribed medication, volatile substances and controlled drugs.

Parents/Guardians

- Support the school in the development and implementation of this policy, including the school's procedures for handling incidents of suspected drug misuse and the drug education programme.
- Support your son/daughter if they have become involved with drugs.

All staff (teaching and non-teaching)

- Be alert to the possibility of drug use/misuse.
- Be familiar with the school's procedures in the handling of suspected drug-related incidents.
- It is not the responsibility of the individual staff member to investigate the circumstances surrounding an incident; however, he/she should deal with any emergency procedures if necessary.
- Any information, substance or paraphernalia received should be forwarded to the designated teacher for drugs who may have to take immediate action.

Teachers delivering the Drug Education programme

In addition to the above:

- Deliver the school's drug education programme.
- Try to create an atmosphere in the classroom in which pupils can freely contribute to discussion, safe in the knowledge that the comments, ideas and feelings of the group are valued.
- Support pupils in their class if necessary.
- Liaise with the designated teacher for drugs regarding any aspect of the programme/policy, as necessary.

The Designated Teacher for Drugs Mr M. Allen/ Mr C. Johnston

- Ensure that all staff and parents are aware of and have access to a copy of the policy.
- Have oversight and co-ordination of the planning of curricular provision in compliance with the statutory requirements including periodic update and review of the policy.
- Liaise with other staff responsible for pastoral care in co-ordinating the delivery of the drug education programme.
- Be responsible for co-ordinating the school's procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- Co-ordinate training and induction of all staff in the procedures for dealing with incidents of suspected drug misuse.
- Determine the circumstances surrounding any suspected drug-related incident.
- Complete a suspected incident report and forward to the Principal.

The Principal

- Ensure that members of the Board of Governors have been consulted on and ratified the policy.

In the case of incidents of suspected drug misuse:

- Ensure the welfare and wellbeing of the pupil(s) involved in the incident and the rest of the school community.
- Ensure that the following people are informed (where relevant):
 - Parents/guardians
 - PSNI
 - Board of Governors
 - Designated Officer in EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION
 - Social Services re: Child Protection Issue
 - Members of staff
 - Other pupils and parents informed within the confines of confidentiality
- Agree, in consultation with the Board of Governors, appropriate pastoral and disciplinary responses in relation to the incident, including counselling services/support.
- Retain written records of the incident and ensure a copy of the report is submitted to Board of Governors and EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION as appropriate.
- Review procedures and amend as appropriate.

The Board of Governors

- Examine and approve the completed policy and education programme, prior to their implementation in the school.
- Ensure the policy is reviewed at regular intervals.
- Be fully aware of and adequately trained to deal with suspected incidents of drug misuse, including Tobacco / e-cigarettes and alcohol, and their appropriate disciplinary response.
- Agree in consultation with the principal appropriate pastoral and disciplinary responses in relation to suspected drug related incidents.

The Caretaker

- Be vigilant around and conduct regular checks of the school grounds for drug-related paraphernalia, and inform the designated teacher for drugs as appropriate.
- Ensure the safe storage, handling and disposal of potentially harmful substances such as solvents and cleaning fluids.

Training and Information

All staff (teaching and non-teaching) and Governors will be provided with training to support the full implementation of this policy including the delivery of the drugs education programme. Each member of staff will be made aware of the problems, signs and symptoms of drug and solvent abuse and will have a responsibility to adhere to and promote this policy. The school will take every opportunity to inform and involve pupils and parents and where pupils are considered at particular risk from drug misuse, additional support from outside agencies will be considered.

Drug Education Programme

The drug education programme in this school is just one part of the whole school response to drug use/misuse. The programme provides opportunities for pupils to:

- acquire knowledge and understanding in relation to drug use/misuse;
- identify values and attitudes in relation to drug use/misuse;
- develop skills to enable them to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others; and
- make informed and responsible choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle.

Development of Resources and Delivery of Programme

The taught programme will contain the following elements:

- It will provide accurate and up-to-date information on drugs and their effects on health and wellbeing;
- It will provide opportunities for pupils to grow in self-esteem and self-respect by:
 - developing a positive attitude about themselves;
 - becoming self-assertive;
 - making informed decisions;
 - becoming aware of different attitudes and values as far as drug-related issues are concerned.
- It will ensure that there is continuity and progression;
- It will ensure that teaching methods and content are appropriate to the age, ability and experience of the pupils.

The programme is specifically delivered through the taught curriculum in learning for life and work and science.

These programmes are available via schemes of work in LLW and Science.

Procedures for Dealing with Suspected Drug-Related Incidents

The following procedures are based on the fundamental principle that the school acts *'in loco parentis'* and the school will always take steps that would reasonably be expected of any parent/carer to safeguard the wellbeing and safety of the pupils and staff in its charge.

The school will at all times give careful consideration as to how any information relating to an incident of suspected drug misuse is communicated to staff, pupils and parents/carers.

If a pupil is found to have taken or be in possession of a legally or illegally held substance on the school premises, during school activities, on school trips or while representing the school then the following procedures should be followed.

- **Ensure the safety of the individual pupil involved, of other pupils, yourself and other staff. On finding a situation with a suspected substance:**

- Get assistance from another member of staff and send for a member of the SLT.
- Inform the Designated Teacher for Drugs/Child Protection as soon as is practicable (or Deputy Designated Teacher if applicable);
- Assess the situation to see whether or not it is a life threatening situation.

In an emergency:

1. If necessary, contact an ambulance and/or seek member of staff with First Aid Training to administer emergency aid;
2. Remove any other bystanders from the immediate vicinity.

In all cases:

1. Carefully gather up any drugs/paraphernalia/evidence lying around being careful to take any appropriate safety precautions e.g. making use of latex gloves if necessary, and give to Designated Teacher for Drugs or an appropriate Senior Teacher for suitable secure storage.
2. Where possible contact parents/carers of the pupil(s) involved informing them that the PSNI will be contacted and also recommending that medical advice be sought.
3. Informs the local PSNI of the incident.

2. Ensure all incidents are properly investigated and recorded:

- Where appropriate pupil(s) should be taken to separate rooms under constant supervision by two members of staff;
- If there is a suspicion that a pupil has concealed illegal substances/legally held substances on his/her person or in his/her personal belongings:
 - Every effort should initially be made for that pupil to voluntarily produce the substance(s);
 - If the pupil refuses request the presence of parents;
 - If there is no resolution the PSNI will be called to deal with the situation;

- Physical body searches must not be made by a member of staff. A search of a pupil's belongings, including schoolbag, coat or other items of personal property should only be made with the pupil's consent, in his/her presence and with another member of the teaching staff present.
- The Designated Teacher (Mr C Johnston) shall investigate, taking statements from eyewitnesses and write a report on the incident. In light of the report the Principal shall take further action in line with the school's Positive Behaviour Management Policy. The Principal shall inform the Chairperson of the Board of Governors as soon as practicable.
- When the media are involved, the Principal will deal with the matter.

Procedures for the Administration of Prescribed Medication

These procedures are outlined separately in the Schools Administration of Medicine Policy.

Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be formally reviewed every two years while the school's Programme for Drugs Education will be reviewed on an annual basis by designated members of staff. Following a drug-related incident the Principal and relevant personnel will meet to ensure that the Policy still meets the individual and collective needs of the school.

The school will ensure that procedures are put in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of all aspects of this policy. Information will be regularly collected from pupils, staff and parents as part of the monitoring process. The insights gained from such reviews will then be evaluated against the aims and objectives of the policy at appropriate intervals. The school will endeavour to keep up to date and informed by developments and publications from relevant and amend this policy where appropriate.

Communication and Dissemination of Policy and Procedures

Dissemination

Through comprehensive drugs education, the school aims to help pupils understand the personal and social risks and the implications of drug-taking.

The school will ensure that drugs education will be provided for all students via the Pastoral Programme, Personal Development Programme, Religious Education Programme, Health Education Programme and, where practicable, through all relevant areas of the curriculum. Appropriate information (relevant to each Key Stage) will also be included within Homework Diaries.

Communication

All staff will be issued with this policy and informed of school procedures in relation to the Misuse/Use of Drugs. At the same time the school will take every opportunity to inform and involve parents. The school's Drugs Education Policy will be available on the school website. It will also be made available to parents on written request. Parents will also be kept informed on drugs related issues as appropriate. Parents are also encouraged to contact school if they have any concerns.

Recognising Signs of Substance Use

What to look out for

If someone is having a bad time on drugs, they may be:

- Anxious;
- Tense;
- Panicky;
- Overheated and dehydrated;
- Drowsy; or
- Having difficulty with breathing.

What to do

The first things you should do are:

- Stay calm;
- Calm them and be reassuring, don't scare them or chase after them;
- Try to find out what they've taken;
- And stay with them.

If they are anxious, tense or panicky, you should:

- Sit them in a quiet and calm room;
- Keep them away from crowds, bright lights and loud noises;
- Tell them to take slow deep breaths; and
- Stay with them

If they are **really drowsy**, you should:

- Sit them in a quiet and calm room
- If they become unconscious or don't respond, call an ambulance immediately and place them in the recovery position;
- Don't scare them. Shout at them or shock them
- Don't give them coffee to wake them up; and
- Don't put them in a cold shower to "wake them up".

If they are **unconscious** or having difficulty breathing, you should:

- Immediately phone for an ambulance;
- Place them into the recovery position;
- Stay with them until the ambulance arrive: and
- If you know what drug they've taken, tell the ambulance crew; this can help make sure that they get the right treatment straight away.

Emergency Procedures

This is the current best advice on what to do if someone is in difficulty because of misusing drugs:

It is important to find out what they have taken as this could affect emergency aid, for example it will help the ambulance crew. Loosen clothing and call for an ambulance immediately.

If the person has taken a depressant substance, for example solvents, alcohol, sleeping pills or painkillers, it is likely that they will be drowsy or unconscious. If the person is drowsy, it is important to try to keep them awake by talking to them or applying a cool damp cloth or towel to the back of the neck. You should not give them anything to eat or drink as this could lead to vomiting or choking.

If they are or become unconscious, out them into the recovery position, clear their airway if blocked and keep checking on any changes to pulse and breathing rates.

If they stop breathing, begin mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, starting with chest compressions. (If you have not been trained in CPR or are worried about giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a stranger, you can do chest compressions – only (or hands only) CPR). Stay with the person until the ambulance crew arrive and then tell them all the facts, including what the person has taken. This is very important as it could save his or her life.

If the person has taken a stimulant, such as amphetamines (speed) or ecstasy, they may show various signs of distress. If the person is panicking, try to reassure them. It is important that they calm down and relax. Get them to breathe in and out, deeply and slowly. Help them by counting aloud slowly. If they start to hyperventilate – that is they can't control their breathing – ask them to breathe in and out of a paper (not a plastic) bag, if there is one available.

If the person has taken a hallucinogen, such as LSA, magic mushrooms or cannabis in combination with ecstasy, they may become very anxious, distressed and fearful. They may act in an unusual way. It is very important to reassure the person – tell them that you will look after them, that they are in no danger, that it is the effects of the substance and that these will soon wear off. You may want to take them to a quiet place, keep other people away and continue to reassure them. Just stay with them and talk calmly to them until the ambulance arrives.

Conclusion

The Drug Education Policy is supported by the following school policies:

- Child Protection
- Promoting Positive Behaviour
- Anti-Bullying
- RSE
- Drugs Education Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy

The Drug Education Policy is supported by the following DE Guidance:

Circular no.	Circular name
2014/27	<p>Managing Information on Persons who Pose a Risk to Pupils (PDF 79 KB)</p> <p>This Circular provides guidance for schools on managing information about persons who may pose a risk to pupils.</p>
2014/25	<p>Encouraging a Smoke Free and E Cigarette Free Environment in Schools and Youth Organisations (PDF 245 KB)</p> <p>This Circular encourages schools and youth organisations to extend the ban on smoking on school and youth premises to include a ban on the use of e-cigarettes. (English Version)</p>
2014/24	<p>EOTAS Guidance (PDF 43 KB)</p> <p>This Circular provides guidance and advice for Principals and Boards of Governors in relation to the operation of Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) provisions by the Education and Library Boards.</p>
1999/10	<p>Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection (PDF 27 KB)</p> <p>This circular is to advise schools of the publication of the Department of Education's guidance on child protection, 'Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection'.</p>
1999/09	<p>Pastoral Care: Guidance on the Use of Reasonable Force to Restrain or Control Pupils (PDF 186 KB)</p> <p>This circular provides clarification and guidance on the use of reasonable force, by teachers and other authorised staff to restrain or control pupils in certain circumstances. It gives guidance about who can use reasonable force, when it is appropriate to use it, and the procedures for recording incidents where reasonable force was used. The circular also advises that schools should have a written policy about the use of reasonable force which should be made known to parents.</p>

This policy has been adopted by Board of Governors

Signed _____
Chairman of Board of Governors

Date _____

Review Date: 06/2023