

Drugs Policy

Date ratified: July 23

Period: July 23 – July 25

Headteacher Signature:

Lynsay Falkingham

Chair of Governors Signature:

Briony Alder

Review Date: July 2025

Rationale

It is the aim of Lanterns to help all children to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial effects, but also that every drug has potential to harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and children need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

Aims:

- To support Lanterns' endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all children, staff and visitors
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations
- To support all the members of Lanterns community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the school curriculum

Key roles and responsibilities

The DSL is responsible for drug related issues within the school.

Inclusive definition of drugs

Lanterns defines a drug as a substance which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, solvents and medicines.

Managing drug related incidents: routine arrangements

- **Medicines**

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with guidance as recommended by Hampshire Health and Safety department.

- **Alcohol**

Parents and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school.

- **Tobacco and e-cigarettes**

There is no smoking on the school site.

- **Solvents**

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely. Children are not permitted to be in possession of solvent based products.

- **Illegal drugs**

No illegal drugs are permitted to be brought on to, or used on Lanterns premises.

Incidents

A drug related incident may include any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of drug possession supply or drug use
- Reports of drug possession supply or drug use.

Guiding principles

- A senior member of staff is responsible for coordinating the management of drug related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies
- Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and be reported to the Headteacher
- Appropriate signposting will be offered to those with substance misuse problems
- Lanterns will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate.

Procedures

- **Medical emergencies**

If an individual is unconscious, is having trouble breathing, is seriously confused or disorientated, has taken a harmful toxic substance or is otherwise at immediate risk of immediate harm medical help will be sought and first aid given if required. The priority will be the child's safety.

- **Individuals in possession of drugs**

If any adult on school premises is found in possession of an unauthorised drug it will be confiscated. If the drug is suspected to be illegal, the school will contact the police and immediately hand over the drug. If the substance cannot be legally destroyed or disposed of it will be handed to the police as soon as possible and not stored for any longer than is necessary. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than to conduct a wider investigation.

- **Recording**

All incidents will be recorded within 24 hours. Forms will be stored securely on CPOM's or if not related to a child or family, in a password protected electronic file.

Links to other policies

See also the school's Behaviour Management policy, Anti-Bullying policy, Health & Safety policy.