



## **DRUGS, SOLVENTS & ALCOHOL USE & MISUSE POLICY**

Lytham St Annes High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and all staff and volunteers.

Lytham St Annes High School condones neither the misuse of drugs, solvents or alcohol by its staff and students, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

### **1 Drug, Solvent & Alcohol Education**

- 1.1 Lytham St Annes High School acknowledges the importance of the School's role in the care and guidance of all students.
- 1.2 The School's Mission Statement and pastoral provision are central to the personal and social development of all Lytham St Annes High School.
- 1.3 A planned programme of health education within the Life (Personal, Social & Health Education) curriculum is one of the ways Lytham St Annes High School prepares students for adult life but other curriculum opportunities, e.g. in Science, Physical Education, etc. also help to reinforce learning.
- 1.4 Lytham St Annes High School actively cooperates with other agencies such as the Police, the School Nurse and wearewithyou to deliver its commitment to substance education.
- 1.5 Lytham St Annes High School's aim in respect of substance use and misuse:
  - To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge
  - To provide accurate, relevant information about substances;
  - To increase awareness and understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse.
  - To widen understanding about related health and social issues: sex, crime, HIV etc
  - To seek support and encouragement of parents in relation to substance use and misuse education and involve them in the process.
  - To understand those who are experiencing or likely to experience substance misuse and to help and guide them and their families and offer appropriate support.
- 1.6 Student medication: see Medical Policy for further details.

## 2 **Drug, Solvent and Alcohol Use and Misuse Policy Delivery**

- 2.1 The Governors will take overall responsibility for the policy, delegating through the Headteacher its implementation, liaison with the governors, parents, LEA and outside agencies and ensuring that all staff dealing with substance issues are adequately supported and trained.

## 3 **Drug, Solvent & Alcohol Use and Misuse – Staff Responsibilities**

- 3.1 All staff should be alert to the warning signs that might indicate that a student is misusing substances (see Appendix A).
- 3.2 In instances of substance misuse or supply on the premises, and following discussion with the SLT, Head of Year and Parents the Police may be informed at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.3 If a student admits to using or supplying substances off the premises the member of staff must inform the Head of Year.
- 3.4 The Head of Year will inform:
- The Headteacher
  - Parents and the Police.
- 3.5 Each incident will be considered on an individual basis and it is recognised that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with respective incidents.
- 3.6 Any action taken will have implications so careful consideration will be given to each incident; taking into account not only the interests of the student involved but also the other members of the school community.
- 3.7 If staff discover substances that they suspect to be harmful or illegal they should note the two circumstances in which substances may be removed:
- 3.7.1 Substances found in a specific location:
- If possible, remove the substance from where it was discovered in the presence of a witness. If this is not possible, staff should not leave the substance there while they enlist the support of a colleague.
- 3.7.2 Substances found on a student & subsequent actions:
- Staff retrieving substances from a student should do so in the presence of a witness if at all possible.
  - Students involved in the sale or (irrespective of financial gain) dealing in illegal drugs at school or on the way to/from school may face permanent exclusion from school.
  - Students found to have possession of illegal drugs or to have consumed them at school or whilst on the way to/from school will face a period of exclusion.
  - The Police will be informed where appropriate.
  - In both cases students will additionally be offered support
  - SLT/HT will be given any substances at the soonest possibility and it will be secured or disposed as appropriate.

## APPENDIX A

### **Warning Signs:**

Early detection of drug misuse is extremely important. If a young person's drug misuse is identified at an early stage, it is easier for action to be taken to prevent his or her further misuse of drugs. Therefore, teachers need to be vigilant, particularly when they are in charge of activities that take groups of young people away from the school premises. Research has shown that first experiments with drugs by young people almost always involve a substance provided by a friend.

The signs listed below may indicate that individuals or groups of young people are misusing drugs. **Their presence alone is not conclusive proof of drug or solvent misuse, many of them are a normal part of adolescence**, but the presence of several signs together may point to a need for greater vigilance. Table 3 lists equipment which, if found in certain circumstances, might also give grounds for concern.

### Warning Signs in Individuals:

- Changes in attendance and being unwilling to take part in school activities
- Decline in performance in school work
- Unusual outbreaks of temper, marked swings of mood, restlessness or irritability
- Reports from parents that more time is being spent away from home, possibly with new friends or with friends in older age groups
- Excessive spending or borrowing of money
- Stealing money or goods
- Excessive tiredness without obvious cause
- No interest in physical appearance
- Sores or rashes especially on the mouth or nose
- Lack of appetite
- Heavy use of scents, colognes, etc. to disguise the smell of drugs
- Wearing sunglasses at inappropriate times (to hide dilated or constricted pupils)
- Associating briefly with others who are much older and not normally part of the peer group

### Warning Signs in Groups:

- Regular absence on certain days
- Keeping at a distance from other students, away from supervision points (e.g. groups who frequently gather near the gate of a school playground or sports field)
- Being the subject of rumours about drug taking
- Talking to strangers on or near the premises
- Stealing which appears to be the work of several individuals rather than one person (e.g. perhaps to shoplift solvents)
- Use of drug takers' slang, for example spice, kush, powder, beans
- Exchanging money or other objects in unusual circumstances

See also document: Street or Slang Name for Drugs (available on school website).

*Reproduced from DfEE/Welsh Office Booklet, "Drug Misuse and the Young – A Guide for the Education Service", 1992 Recognising the Signs.*