



Loughton School

Child Criminal Exploitation including pupil Drug and Alcohol Policy

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Statement of intent

Loughton School is committed to keeping pupils safe from drugs and alcohol, both on our premises and in the wider community. This policy has been developed in conjunction with DfE guidance to ensure that everyone is aware of the risks posed by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

The school maintains the view that alcohol and drug use on school premises is entirely unacceptable; however, we recognise that zero-tolerance policies have a disproportionately negative impact on some pupils, e.g. victims of child criminal exploitation (CCE). For this reason, we aim to foster an approach of supportive discipline, whereby pupils who are facing issues with drugs and alcohol are aided through both internal and external support, as well as disciplinary measures where appropriate, to make more healthy and positive choices and to reframe their attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.

For the purposes of this policy, a “**drug**” is defined as any substance which, when ingested, alters perception and the way the body works. This definition includes but is not limited to:

- All illegal substances
- Alcohol
- Tobacco (including vaping)
- Solvents
- Medicines
- Legal highs

1. **[Updated]** Legal framework

[Updated] This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Education Act 2011
- Health Act 2006
- DfE (2012) 'DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools'
- **[Updated]** DfE (2024) 'Keeping children safe in education 2023'
- DfE (2018) 'Mental health and behaviour in schools'
- DfE (2022) 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation: Advice for schools'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Administering Medication Policy
- Relationship Policy
- Physical Intervention Policy
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy
- Suspension and Exclusion Policy
- **PSHE and SRE policy**

2. Roles and responsibilities

The governing board will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that effective policies and procedures are in place to make sure that pupils are kept safe from alcohol and drugs at school.
- Ensuring that this policy is maintained and disseminated to all relevant stakeholders.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with alcohol and/or drugs can access the support they need.
- Working with the headteacher, and in liaison with staff, parents, pupils, health and other professionals, to ensure that the relevant curricula, e.g. RSHE and PSHE, addresses the needs of pupils and the local community, and reflects current trends.
- Ensuring that the designated safeguarding governor submits an annual written report to the governing board concerning drug- and alcohol-related incidents and concerns.

The headteacher will be responsible for:

- The day-to-day management of this policy.
- Working with governors to ensure compliance with relevant legislation.
- Informing the governing board of any issues and developments concerning drugs and alcohol.
- Acting on any concerns arising from pupils' use of drugs and alcohol.
- Informing parents of any drug- and alcohol-related incidents concerning their child, where appropriate and where doing so will not place the child at risk.

- Inviting the local police and drugs team into school to raise awareness of the risks and issues associated with drugs.
- Informing the police of any drug- or alcohol-related decision, where they deem it appropriate to do so.
- Ensuring a consistent approach to managing drug and alcohol incidents.

The DSL will be responsible for:

- Ensuring that staff have the skills to teach and discuss issues relating to drugs and alcohol.
- Ensuring that pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol are provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate.
- Consulting with pupils to inform provision around drugs and alcohol education.
- Accessing appropriate training to enable them to successfully advise the school on drug and alcohol matters.
- Liaising with local services as necessary to provide support for pupils.
- Assisting with the monitoring and review of this policy.

Staff will be responsible for:

- Attending scheduled training concerning drugs and alcohol, including how to spot the signs and symptoms of use and dependency, identifying paraphernalia, and how to respond to a drug related incident.
- Reporting concerns regarding pupils' use of drugs and alcohol to the DSL and logging this on CPOMs.

The senior operations manager will be responsible for:

- Regularly checking the school premises for signs of drug and alcohol use and reporting any concerns to the DSL.
- Adhering to Health and Safety guidelines when handling needles found on school premises.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Ensuring they do not bring illegal or prohibited drugs or alcohol onto school premises or whilst engaged in any off-site activity representing the school.
- Ensuring they do not take drugs or consume alcohol whilst travelling to or from school.
- Contributing to the development of this policy by providing feedback on the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol education provided, and on how incidents are managed.

3. Staff training

The school recognises that early intervention can prevent drug misuse. As such, all staff will receive child protection and safeguarding training in identifying the signs that a pupil may be at risk, experiencing harm or is struggling upon induction and this will be refreshed annually. Staff will also receive regular and ongoing training as part of their professional development.

All staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing alcohol and other drugs themselves, or is in a family circumstance presenting challenges that includes drug and alcohol misuse.

4. The curriculum

All pupils will receive annual guidance on drugs and alcohol as part of the relationships and health education curriculum, in line with the PSHE and SRE Policy

Lessons will be delivered as appropriate to the age and phase of the pupils and will be adapted to the individual learning styles of the children in each class.

Information about drugs and alcohol will feature regularly as part of pastoral education in the form of PSHE lessons and assemblies. Where appropriate, expert visitors and external speakers will be sought to provide classes on drug and alcohol misuse.

Any pastoral care concerns relating to exposure to drugs and/or alcohol will be logged on CPOMs and reported to the DSL (Ellie Frost) or a member of the safeguarding team.

5. [Updated] Safeguarding

The school understands that the misuse of drugs and alcohol can often be a sign of underlying issues.

[New] Staff members will be aware of the fact that alcohol and drug misuse can be an indicator of a safeguarding concern and is often an indicator of both child criminal and sexual exploitation.

All staff are aware that behaviours linked to issues such as drug and alcohol misuse put pupils in danger. Staff will be particularly alert to the potential need for early help for a pupil who is misusing drugs or alcohol, or where it is observed or suspected that their parents or family members misuse drugs.

Pupils experiencing difficulties with drugs or alcohol will be provided with appropriate internal support and referred to external support agencies as appropriate. Support will be arranged and offered to pupils in line with the school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

6. [Updated] Child criminal exploitation (CCE)

CCE is where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child into any criminal activity in exchange for something the victim needs or wants and/or for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or through violence or threats of violence. CCE can include children being coerced into moving, storing and selling drugs across the country (known as county lines).

[New] Staff will be aware of the indicators that may suggest a pupil is being criminally exploited through involvement in county lines, including where pupils:

- Have gone missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their harm.
- Have been a victim or perpetrator of serious violence, e.g. knife crime.

- Have been involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs.
- Are exposed to techniques such as 'plugging', where drugs are concealed internally to avoid detection.
- Are found in accommodation that they have no connection with.
- Owe a 'debt bond' to their exploiters.
- Have their bank accounts used to facilitate drug dealing.

[Updated] Staff will be made aware of the following potential indicators of CCE for pupils:

- Appearing with unexplained gifts or new possessions
- Associating with other young people involved in exploitation
- Suffering from changes in emotional wellbeing
- Misusing drugs and alcohol
- **[Updated]** Going missing for periods of time or regularly coming home late
- **[New]** Regularly missing school or education or not taking part in education

Staff members will be aware that illegal drug use or possession by pupils may indicate that they are victims of exploitation, even if it appears that illegal activity regarding drugs is something to which they have consented. The DSL (Ellie Frost) and Headteacher (Rebekah Green) will use their professional judgement to consider CCE as an explanation for a pupil's drug-related behaviour before pursuing other support and disciplinary procedures, rather than making assumptions about the pupil's intentions.

Staff will be alert to the indicators above and all concerns relating to CCE will be managed in line with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

7. Managing incidents

Instances of pupils being involved in drug and/or alcohol incidents will be logged using CPOMs and managed in line with the relevant school policies, including the Relationships Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, and the Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) Policy.

Following an incident, the headteacher will work with key members of staff, including the DSL, to assess the pupil's welfare and support needs and decide on the most appropriate course of action to take. Referrals will be considered to local youth, family or health services, and voluntary organisations, to provide support.

The headteacher will also be responsible for deciding if it would be appropriate to suspend or exclude the pupil, following the provisions outlined in the school's Suspension and Exclusion Policy; however, every effort will be taken to support pupils to adopt more healthy behaviours and choices before resorting to suspension or exclusion. Suspension or exclusion will be avoided wherever possible for pupils whose parents or carers are known to the school to misuse alcohol and drugs.

Support will be arranged for pupils involved in any alcohol- or drug-related incidents, in line with relevant school policies. Any incidents will be recorded on CPOMs and reported to the DSL (Ellie Frost) or a member of the safeguarding team.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed bi-annually by the DSL in liaison with the headteacher

Any changes to this policy will be communicated to staff and all relevant stakeholders. The next scheduled review date is October 2026.

