



DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE MISUSE 2025



Approved by: Mica Coleman Jones

Date: 02.09.2025

Next review due by: 02.09.2026

Approved by trustees: 25.11.2026

**Signed by Chair of
Trustees**

FOREWORD

Lilya's Clarendon School and Lilya's Goldsmith School are both sites for Alternative Provision. Whilst neither site holds school status, they are often referred to as schools for the benefit of students.

AIMS

This policy has been developed as part of a whole school ethos to develop healthy children with high self-esteem who are able to take responsibility for their own learning and actions. We recognise that the acquisition of knowledge, understanding and skills which enable young people to consider the effects of drugs on themselves and others is of vital importance.

‘A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions
physically, emotionally, or mentally.’

The term ‘drug’ throughout this document includes medicines as well as tobacco, alcohol, illegal drugs, solvents, and glues. We recognise the importance of exploring the beneficial use of drugs as medicines as well as the harmful effects of drug misuse.

This policy document identifies effective strategies that we will implement in this area of the curriculum and takes account of the guidance from the DfE Drug Advice for Schools 2012: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-advice-for-schools>.

This policy applies to all curriculum activities within The Lilya Lighthouse Education Trust and any out of school activities such as day trips or residential trips.

We believe that the essential aim of drug education should be to give pupils the facts (appropriate to their age and level of understanding), to emphasise the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to give children and young people the knowledge and skills to make informed and responsible choices now and in later life.

The following objectives have been prioritised:

- To promote learners' self-esteem and confidence.
- To give accurate information about drugs.
- To consider and/or challenge attitudes learners may have regarding drug use and misuse.

- To provide opportunities for learners to be equipped with and practise the skills they need to avoid misuse of drugs.
- To help learners to distinguish different drugs, consider their use, misuse, benefits, and harm.
- Ensure that families and the community are informed of our policy.
- To establish procedures for responding to drug incidents.
- To provide an environment where learners feel safe in discussing their views/experiences of drug use/misuse.

MANAGEMENT AND CO-ORDINATION

PSHE Co-ORDINATOR

In accordance with government guidance The Lilya Lighthouse Education Trust has a designated PSHE co-ordinator who is responsible for the management of drug education within the trust.

The co-ordinator has responsibility for supporting policy implementation by providing advice and support to governors, senior managers, curriculum leaders, classroom teachers and support staff.

The co-ordinator will therefore ensure that:

- The Drug Education Policy is disseminated to all members of the school community and is discussed and understood.
- Clear roles and responsibilities for policy implementation are identified. The underpinning aims and values and attitudes towards drug education are made explicit.
- The development of good relationships is promoted within and beyond the school.
- The equality of opportunity is promoted.
- Provision is made for ongoing professional development within the field of drugs awareness and education.

STAFFING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

All staff, including support staff, need access to professional development and support that relates to the drug education curriculum and its style of delivery. A range of provision will be identified that meets staff needs across a range of roles and responsibilities. Areas of individual staff development will be identified through existing staff development systems. This will be ascertained through staff performance management meetings and staff audits.

CURRICULUM ORGANISATION AND PLANNING

Drug education will be delivered in this school through a combination of planned curriculum opportunities and whole school approaches. The responsibility for the provision of drug education is held by the head of provision and PSHE co-ordinator.

The PSHE co-ordinator, in consultation with staff, will develop key stage plans and schemes of work considering the National Curriculum requirements, school priorities for the personal and social development of pupils, local priorities and initiatives, government policies and the special needs and maturity of individual learners.

EXTERNAL AGENCIES AND SERVICES

We value and encourage the involvement of external agencies and services in supporting the delivery of this area of the curriculum. Where outside speakers are to be involved their contribution will be properly planned as part of the overall programme. Their contribution will complement other teaching and be appropriate to the age and maturity of the pupils involved. Class teachers will always be involved so they can deal with questions and concerns.

FAMILIES

We value working in partnership with parents and carers and with the wider school community and see this as an essential element of developing this policy and the school's drug education programme. We also aim to support parents in their efforts to inform their children. We do this by providing parents information meetings where necessary and sharing curriculum aims and objectives.

EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

In accordance with school and LEA policy, a commitment to Equal Opportunities will be built into all aspects of drug education. To ensure equality of opportunity, all activities will be planned:

- Ensuring that all learners can participate in the same curriculum.
- Taking account of the interests and concerns of learners by using a range of activities and contexts for work and allowing a variety of interpretations and outcomes.
- Taking account of pupils' specific religious or cultural beliefs relating to the representation of ideas or experiences.
- Enabling the fullest possible participation of learners with disabilities or medical needs in all subjects.
- Offering positive role models and making provision, where necessary, to facilitate access to activities with appropriate support, aids, or adaptations.

ASSESSMENT, RECORDING AND REPORTING

The assessment, recording and reporting of drug education will take place in accordance with school policy. Understanding in drug education will be demonstrated through assessment against learning objectives, which will be built into curriculum planning. A variety of assessment techniques will be used including, peer assessment and self-assessment. The reporting of individual achievement and progress will include skill development and values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and understanding. Progress in these areas will be reported through written reports to parents including, pupil's awareness and attitudes to others, responsibility, and contribution to the life of the school.

MANAGING DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

A drug related incident is identified as:

- Drugs or associated paraphernalia are found on school premises.
- Learner/Staff member is found in possession of drugs.
- Learner/Staff member is found to be supplying drugs on school premises.
- Learner, parent/carer or staff member is thought to be under the influence of drugs.

- In all cases the head of provision and safeguarding leads should be informed immediately. If there is any question of a medical emergency the school will immediately call for medical assistance.

MEDICINES

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Please refer to our Medical Policy.

ALCOHOL

No alcohol may be brought on to school premises or consumed during a school day. Any adult (or staff, students, parents, carers, 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. Parents will be asked to collect their children from the school and will be encouraged to seek immediate medical support.

SMOKING

Our premises are always a 'no smoking' site. Learners are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a learner be found in possession of any of these on our premises, they will be confiscated, and parents/carers informed. Smoking on or within 200m of the school premises will result in a Fixed Term Suspension. This also applies to "vaping" and the use of electronic cigarettes.

ILLEGAL DRUGS AND "PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES"

No illegal drugs, psychoactive substances or drugs paraphernalia are allowed to be brought on to or used on school premises. Bringing any such items onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy. Seeking to influence or glamorise illegal drug use or the use of psychoactive substances either in person on school premises or via social networking sites is also considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy.

SOLVENTS

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances it authorises are stored safely, and learners will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Learners are not permitted to be in possession of solvents. Bringing solvents or hazardous substances onto school premises is considered a serious breach of this Drugs Policy.

RESPONSES TO DRUG RELATED INCIDENTS

Exclusion from school is not an automatic response to a drug incident but permanent exclusion is considered in serious cases where:

- There is a serious breach or persistent breaches of our Drugs and/or Behaviour Policies and
- Allowing a learner to remain in our provision would seriously harm the education, safety or welfare of the learner or others in the provision.

A member of the SLT will (normally) be responsible for coordinating the management of drug-related incidents. They will work with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and will offer sources of support and liaise with the commissioner outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after assessing the situation and will be reported to the head of provision.

All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

CONFISCATING AN ILLEGAL DRUG AND ITS DISPOSAL

School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified drug but will take temporary possession of any drug suspected of being a controlled drug for the purpose of protecting our learners from harm or committing the offence of possession.

If we suspect that a pupil is concealing illegal drugs, we will contact the commissioner straight away and encourage the learner to voluntarily surrender the drug. Under no circumstances will any teacher undertake an intimate physical search. If the learner refuses, the head of provision may decide to contact parents/carers and/or the police. We will always inform parents/carers if the police are to be called to an incident. As our primary concern is the welfare of all our learners, alternative action may be taken. For example, if we feel that parents/carers are directly involved in the situation causing concern or that they may

seriously overreact and cause harm to the child, we may have to inform other appropriate agencies to safeguard.

If the drug cannot be identified it will be treated as illegal. We will contact a police officer for discussion and advice. Illegal substances will be handed to the police to be legally destroyed as soon as possible and not stored. We will then decide how to proceed with due regard to Child Protection policy issues.

We will keep a record of the action taken when responding to incidents of this nature, irrespective of the seriousness of the case and update the student's risk assessment.