LONDON VOCATIONAL
BALLET SCHOOL

Substance Use and Misuse

including Smoking, Vaping, Drugs & Alcohol

This policy is written in conjunction with the school's behavior policy, searching, screening and confiscation policy, the schools parent and student contract, KCSIE 2026, First Aid policy, Mental Health policy and the school's Code of Conduct and Behavior Policy.

Students at LVBS train like athletes as such using substances like tobacco, vapes, alcohol or drugs will have a negative impact on their physical and psychological condition. The School recognises this but understands that as young people they may be exposed to the dangers of subcultures in which such substances are a prominent currency. It is therefore important as part of our health education in PSHE RSHE that the school teaches students to be aware of the personal, social, legal consequences of substance use and the physical effects on their body and mind.

Accordingly, it is the intention of the school to implement a policy, which will:

- Ensure that, through the best PSHE RSHE curriculum and pastoral education, students are given all the necessary information to resist peer pressure and to make wise and informed choices for themselves.
- Help students to face their responsibilities, to themselves, their family, and the wider society.
- Create an atmosphere in which staff, parents and students may discuss contemporary social issues openly.
- Give guidance on responding to any incidents of substance misuse which may occur traveling to school or on the school premises or on school excursions.
- Give guidance to responding to any safeguarding issues associated with either the child/young person's substance misuse or someone else's.
- Give guidance on sanctions as a result of substance use or related issues.

Definitions:

Drugs:

A drug is a chemical substance which brings about a change in a person's emotional state, body functioning, or behavior. This definition includes many substances which might not immediately be considered. These include:

• alcohol
• tobacco including Vaping
• illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD and cannabis
• prescription only medicines (POM) such as anabolic steroids and benzodiazepines
• over the counter medicines (OTC) such as preparations containing codeine
• volatile substances such as aerosol propellants, butane, solvents and glues.

Substance misuse

Defined by the NHS as substance abuse or misuse as the continued misuse of any mind-altering substance that severely affects a person's physical and mental health, social situation, and responsibilities.

Sanctions

Guidance:

If there are reasonable grounds to justify an enquiry at school, the DSL or a member of the safeguarding team will have the right to question students. If they are satisfied that there is a case to be answered, parents will be informed and invited to be present at subsequent interview(s). The school is duty bound to report all cases of supply, possession or use of controlled substances to the Police.

Tobacco/Vaping

LVBS is a no-smoking environment, this includes vaping.

The NHS have stated that there has been a 9% increase from 2018 of school children aged between 11 to 15 using vapes. It is the school's responsibility to educate our students through lessons such as PSHE to inform students of the negative health consequences of not only smoking but using vapes.

No members of the school community nor visitors to the school are permitted to smoke or Vape anywhere on any of the school sites.

Smoking or being in possession of cigarettes /tobacco/ Vape is prohibited whenever a student is under the school's authority, including the journeys to and from school. This also includes any occasion on which he/she is involved in activity organized by the school or is identifiable as a member of the school including images on social media.

- First offense involving tobacco/vape will normally meet with an appropriate school-based sanction.
- The incidents will be communicated to parents.
- Repeat or repeated offenses will call for more serious sanctions.

The school's response will be appropriately balanced between the disciplinary and educational.

Alcohol

The school's policy is that students should not consume any alcohol on the school premises on school trips, journeys to or from school or be under the influence of alcohol. This also includes any occasion on which he/she is involved in activity organised by the school or is identifiable as a member of the school including images on social media.

It is an offense for those under the age of 18 to buy alcohol.

- First offenses involving alcohol will normally meet with an appropriate school-based sanction.
- The incidents will be communicated to parents.

- Repeat or repeated offenses will call for more serious sanctions.

The school's response will be appropriately balanced between the disciplinary and educational.

Drugs
Possession, use or distribution of illegal or controlled substances is absolutely prohibited and will always be treated as the most serious offense, the punishment for which may be expulsion. The school's jurisdiction in these matters will be deemed to extend to all cases, whether on or off the school site and images on any social media, which in view of the Directors are reckoned to affect the community of the school.

Further Sanctions
If it has been established beyond reasonable doubt that a student is guilty of an offense the Directors may decide that any of the following sanctions will be appropriate:

Suspension from School may be preferred to expulsion. If so, a student's return to school will be conditional upon one or more of the following:

a. Their willingness to undergo a period of counseling.
b. Their acceptance of occasional medical screening tests (probably involving urine or hair samples) while he/she remains at school.
c. Their participation in a programme of community service.

Expulsion will be the almost inevitable penalty for

a. Those selling or distributing controlled substances or otherwise actively encouraging their consumption by others.
b. Those who re-offend after having been given a second chance.

In keeping with the approach to pastoral matters adopted at LVBS, decisions regarding the appropriate sanction in matters of this kind will take full account of the needs and circumstances of the individuals concerned as well as the whole school community. Parents will be kept fully informed of these deliberations.

Responding to incidents relating to Substance use and misuse

The school will support any student who may be recognised as a substance user. This we will do by completing a referral form available from Hammersmith and Fulham and forward it to the support network called 'Resilience'. The school along with the parents will work with 'Resilience' to give the student the best possible support. Resilience, Young People's Drug, Alcohol & Sexual Health | Turning Point

Guidance - Staff Action Guide in the event of consumption of substances:

What follows is based on our primary concern for the safety and health of the student concerned, whenever any member of staff encounters an incident of substance activity in school.

The Consumption of Drugs:
Immediate Staff Response:
• Assess is there a medical emergency? If so, call an ambulance immediately.
* If a student is hallucinating, Do Not Challenge his/her statement or perceptions.
* This could be dangerous.
* Try to remove the student to a quiet, non-threatening environment.
• Contact the DSL or a member of the safeguarding team without delay.
• Seize and retain the substance concerned and transfer it to DSL or Director. Substances can then be kept in an identified secure location.
• Obtain an appropriate adult witness* statement, regarding the type and quantity of substance, and if relevant, method of disposal. (Examples of appropriate witnesses are, pharmacist, police liaison officer, GP Medical, Legal and Pastoral Procedure.)
• Inform the parent/carer when the initial emergency is over and for information and consultation.
• Make an early decision on which other agencies also need to be informed/involved. For example, educational welfare officer, social services, police, child and family consultation group, educational psychologist.
• Consult with the Police Community Liaison Officer regarding legal implications of the situation. A request should also be made that Police collect the secured suspicious substances the same working day.
• Decide if the situation warrants informing general/particular student population.
• Liaise with other agencies involved regarding longer-term student counseling, family involvement, service availability etc.
• Consider if review of school policy or curriculum provision is required as a result of the incident.

The Carrying of Drugs:
When a member of staff has reasonable cause to believe that a student is carrying or concealing illegal substances, even if there is no allegation of misuse on school premises, a challenge will be made to the student:

• The student and their belongings will be moved to an appropriate area of the school that ensures supervision by staff but privacy from other students.
• The DSL or a member of the safeguarding team must be called to undertake an investigation with the student, and ensure any substances found are properly secured.
• The student will be asked to provide an explanation of the concern and asked to display their belongings for school staff to check.
• If the student is not willing to comply with this request, the student l should remain in the appropriate area whilst the Police and parents are contacted.

Handling of Substances by:

Care should be taken when handling any substance suspected of being a drug.
If possible disposable gloves should be worn. (These are kept with a first aid kit located in both buildings VH and SH) If these are not available, care should be taken to wash hands immediately after handling.
Any needles and syringes which are found on school premises should be handled with great care to avoid needle-stick injuries (training for safe handling will be provided by the LA).

Curriculum
Purpose:
Students are taught about substance use and abuse during their PSHE RSHE lessons.

- To provide accurate information about legal and illegal drugs and related issues.
- To endeavor to eliminate myths and stereotyping in relation to drugs.
- To recognise the extent of drug use and misuse in society.
- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, challenging attitudes and by developing assertive skills.
- To ensure all students are clear about the school rules and sanctions; the general law relating to medicines regarding drug misuse.
- To understand that it may lead to risky behaviour and understand what these may be.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of drug use and misuse physically and psychologically.
- To make it known that the school is likely to work with external support agencies when dealing with situations that include substance use and misuse.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate support.
- To know that drugs have a detrimental effect both on overall health and on the fitness of a dancer. It also increases the chances of accident and injury.

Approval body: LVBS SMT and Safeguarding Team
Revised date: September 2026
Review Schedule: 1 year
Next review date: September 2027