



# The London Interdisciplinary School

## Student Drug and Alcohol Misuse Policy

### Introduction

This Policy sets out the School principles, policies and procedures in relation to drug and alcohol misuse by students.

### Principles

LIS is committed to safeguarding the health, safety and welfare of its students, and accepts its responsibility to promote good health by raising awareness of the risks of alcohol and drugs.

The School respects the privacy of students, but must be concerned where a student's behaviour impairs his/her conduct, safety or academic performance and/or adversely affects the working and social conditions of the School's students, staff, visitors, and the wider community

Students and staff are also reminded that it is a criminal offence to produce, supply, possess or import a controlled drug, as defined under the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1971. It is a criminal offence to produce, supply, possess with the intent to supply, or import psychoactive substances, as defined under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.

### Policies

All members of the School community are expected to contribute to creating an environment in which everyone can live, study and socialise free from inappropriate disturbance. Anti-social behaviour resulting from alcohol or drug use is unacceptable and may be grounds for disciplinary action including the possibility of exclusion from the School.

The School will endeavour to increase awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol-related issues, by means of posters and leaflets; through the website and social media channels (with links to established help sites); and through the training of relevant staff such as personal tutors. The School will provide support and information to those affected by drug and alcohol misuse via the Student Experience department.

Any student who is concerned about their use of alcohol or drugs is encouraged to seek advice. The School will regard anyone seeking support as having a health problem; and the Student Experience Office will offer confidential advice and

support, as well as links to local agencies that provide a range of supportive services.

Any student who is concerned about another student's use of alcohol or drugs should encourage them to seek support.

All LIS students are subject to the provisions of the Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy. The School's disciplinary jurisdiction over students' conduct related to alcohol and drugs is not limited to that exercised solely on School premises or solely within term-time. Students' behaviour off-campus, at weekends, during evenings and outside term-time, and on placements and field-trips, is subject to scrutiny under this policy and its procedures. Such cases will be considered in their wider context and action will only be taken under the School's disciplinary procedures where it is considered proportionate and/or relevant to the student's course.

## **Definitions**

Drugs:

- All controlled drugs listed in the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and any substance covered by the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016.
- Prescription Only Medicines (as determined under the Medicines Act 1968) where the prescription medicines have not been prescribed for the person possessing or using them and/or such prescription medicines which are not taken in accordance with an appropriate practitioner's (as defined under UK Law) direction.

Supply:

- The transfer of physical control of a drug to someone else. It is not important whether there is a profit or benefit of any form, although this may be reflected in any decision regarding disciplinary sanction(s).

## **Procedures**

The School will provide any student accused of misconduct involving drugs or alcohol with access to confidential advice and support, via the Student Experience Department.

The type of alcohol or drug-related conduct most likely to be considered under the School's Student Conduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures, includes, but is not limited to:

- Supply or possession of a controlled drug;
- Supply or repeated possession of a psychoactive substance;
- Production of a controlled drug or psychoactive substance;
- Failure to declare a criminal investigation, conviction, charge or caution related to alcohol or drug use;
- Anti-social behaviour resulting from alcohol or drug use;

Conduct which may constitute a serious breach of the rules outlined in this Policy may include possession of a Class A controlled drug; repeated possession of a Class B or C controlled drug or a psychoactive substance; supply or production of a controlled drug or psychoactive substance; or incidents which lead to considerable safety risks to the individual, other students or staff.

All incidents of misconduct involving alcohol or drugs should be reported to the Head of Student Experience.

Many incidents of misconduct involving alcohol or drugs can be handled under the powers of summary jurisdiction afforded to senior members of staff under the Student Conduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedures. However, where an incident appears to constitute a serious breach of the School's rules as outlined in this Policy, it will be referred to formal disciplinary procedures as outlined in the Student Conduct Policy. The Director of Student Experience (or their nominee) will also decide whether the matter should be referred to the Police.

The School would not normally consider being under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of any incident of misconduct to constitute a mitigating factor. Breach of the School's Student Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Policy may constitute an additional offence under the Student Conduct Policy.

### **Review and Monitoring**

The Director of Student Experience shall report annually to the Executive Committee on instances of misconduct involving alcohol or drugs. S/he or any other Executive Committee member may recommend any changes to this Policy to the Executive Committee; where the Committee agrees to these changes, they will pass them to the Board of Directors for authorisation.

<b>Name of policy/procedure:</b>	<b>Student Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Policy</b>
<b>Document owner:</b>	<b>Hannah Kohler, Head of Student Experience</b>
<b>Date Originally Created:</b>	<b>12/2018</b>
<b>Last reviewed:</b>	<b>12/2018</b>
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	<b>Jasper Joyce</b>
<b>Audited by:</b>	<b>[name and job title]</b>
<b>Date of Audit:</b>	<b>MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Date of next review:</b> (annually unless otherwise agreed)	<b>MM/YYYY</b>
<b>Related documents:</b> (eg associated forms, underpinning processes, related policies or overarching policies)	<b>Student Conduct Policy and Disciplinary Procedure</b>

<b>Version Control</b>			
<b>Version</b>	<b>Author [name]</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Brief summary of changes</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Hannah Kohler</b>	<b>1/12/2018</b>	<b>Original draft</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Jasper Joyce</b>	<b>10/03/2019</b>	<b>Adjustments to wording</b>