

London Contemporary Dance School (The Place)

Student Substance Misuse Policy

June 2025

Name of Policy Writer	Lead Post Holder	Date approved	Approved by	Review Date
A Helsby	Director of Student Lifecycle and Well-Being	June 2025	Academic Board	June 2027

Introduction

LCDS is committed to enhancing the health and safety and well-being of students and recognises the risks associated with the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances.

LCDS does not condone the misuse of drugs or alcohol and will balance disciplinary action with appropriate support for students who engage in such misuse.

LCDS acknowledges that alcohol and drugs may play a role in some people's lives and will adopt a supportive approach to addressing problems arising from substance misuse, without condoning such behaviour.

The policy aims to facilitate the early identification of substance misuse issues and encourage students to seek advice, help and assistance voluntarily before their studies are adversely affected. LCDS will achieve these goals through educational, well-being and disciplinary approaches.

The Legal Context

The primary legislation regulating the use of dangerous and harmful drugs is the **Misuse of Drugs Act 1971**, which states that it is an offence for 'the occupier or someone concerned in the management of any premises knowingly to permit or suffer on those premises the smoking of cannabis; or the production, attempted production, supply, attempted supply, or offering to supply of any controlled drug'.

LCDS regulations state that "**The possession, storage, sale, use or misuse of a controlled drug as defined by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (as amended) on school property**" constitutes a disciplinary offence.

The **Health and Safety at Work Act 1974** requires LCDS to take reasonable measures to protect the health and safety of staff, students and visitors. Drug and alcohol misuse can negatively impact on the health and safety of an individual as well as pose risks to others, including students in shared accommodation or staff having to handle illegal substances and drug-related paraphernalia.

LCDS has a legal responsibility to uphold the law. Students who violate relevant legislation, may be subject to disciplinary action by LCDS, under the [Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#), which may include reporting incidents to the Police.

Further details on UK drug legislation can be found at: www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing

Management

If physical evidence of illegal substances is found on site, The Place Front of House staff will be informed, and the evidence will be secured. Where necessary, the Police will be informed.

If breaches of LCDS regulations regarding drug use are suspected, an investigation will be conducted. Disciplinary action may be taken, but the primary aim is to educate students rather than to impose punitive measures.

LCDS will take immediate action to prevent injury, damage or other serious risk where substance misuse causes a student to endanger themselves and/or others. A student under the influence of illegal drugs, legal highs or alcohol may be asked to leave a class, lecture or seminar, or be removed from The Place premises.

Persistent breaches of LCDS regulations surrounding drugs and alcohol may result in suspension or exclusion from LCDS.

Help and Advice

LCDS regards an individual's dependency on either drugs or alcohol as a health issue. If a student reports the matter to the **Student Support Team** or to their **Year Group / Course Leader** and agrees a programme of rehabilitation, LCDS will allow reasonable absences for advice and/or treatment as 'sick leave', This will be taken into account when assessing work, provided the student has kept the **Student Support Team** informed and demonstrates efforts to resolve their difficulties.

If assessments or deadlines are missed, or attendance falls below acceptable levels, the Attendance and Extenuating Circumstances Board will review the case. Students may need to provide evidence from their GP or an external agency confirming their attendance and progress. Confidentiality will be respected at all times.

Students struggling with substance misuse or concerned about a peer's misuse are encouraged to seek support from the [Student Support Team](#). If a student believes someone may pose a danger to themselves or others due to substance misuse, they should inform a member of the [Student Support Team](#).

Support and Advice Resources

- **Drinkaware** – Offers information and support regarding alcohol consumption and its effects. www.drinkaware.co.uk

- **Talk to Frank** – A UK-based drug education service providing confidential advice on substance misuse.

Education

LCDS will raise awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol related issues through various initiatives:

Distribution of publicity materials such as posters and leaflets to raise student awareness about the risks of substance misuse.

Provide training for relevant staff to better support students and manage substance-related incidents effectively.

This policy is subject to periodic review to ensure compliance with current UK legislation and best practices in student welfare.