

# London Contemporary Dance School (The Place)

## Student Alcohol and Drugs Policy

June 2023

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 LCDS has a commitment to enhancing the health and safety and well-being of students and recognizes the risks that may be caused by the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances.
- 1.2 LCDS in no way condones the misuse of drugs or alcohol and will balance disciplinary action with appropriate support for students who misuse them.
- 1.3 LCDS recognises however that alcohol and drugs will play a part in the lives of some people and will be sympathetic to problems arising from misuse of these substances whilst not condoning such misuse.
- 1.4 The policy aims to facilitate the early identification of such problems and to encourage students to seek advice, help and assistance voluntarily before their studies are adversely affected. LCDS will achieve these goals through educational, counselling and disciplinary approaches.

## **2. The Legal Context**

- 2.1 The law regulating dangerous and otherwise harmful drugs is the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, which makes it clear 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’.
- 2.2 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 from time to time) on school property” is a Disciplinary Offence.
- 2.3 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 requires LCDS to do what is reasonable to protect the health and safety of staff, students and visitors. Drug and alcohol misuse can have an impact on the health and safety of an individual and also for others, for example students in shared accommodation or staff having to handle illegal substances and drug-related paraphernalia.
- 2.4 LCDS has a responsibility to uphold the law. Students who contravene the legislation, outlined above, may be subject to disciplinary action by the institution and this may include reporting incidents to the Police.

Further details of the legal context can be found on the following website:

[www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing](http://www.gov.uk/penalties-drug-possession-dealing)

## **3. Management**

- 3.1 Where there is physical evidence of illegal substances having been used on site, The Place Front of House staff will be informed and the evidence removed for safekeeping. Where necessary, the Police will be informed.

- 3.2 Where breaches of LCDS regulations surrounding drugs are suspected, an investigation will take place. Disciplinary action may be taken against students involved but the main aim of the process is to educate students rather than to impose penalties.
- 3.3 LCDS will take action to prevent injury, damage or other serious risk where, as a result of substance misuse, a student acts in such a way as to endanger themselves and/or others. A student believed to be under the influence of illegal drugs, legal highs or alcohol may, for example, be asked to leave a class, lecture or seminar, or be removed from The Place premises.
- 3.4 Persistent breaches of LCDS regulations surrounding drugs and alcohol may result in exclusion or expulsion from the school.

#### **4. Help and Advice**

- 4.1 LCDS regards an individual's dependency on either drugs or alcohol as a health problem. If a student reports the matter to the Student Support team or to their Year Group / Course Leader and agrees a programme of rehabilitation then LCDS will allow reasonable absences for advice and/or treatment as 'sick leave' and will take this into account when assessing work, provided the student has kept Student Support informed of their progress and it is clear that they are attempting to resolve any difficulties they may have.
- 4.2 If assessments or deadlines are missed, or attendance falls below acceptable levels, the Attendance and Mitigating Circumstances Board would review such instances in the same way as any absence is reviewed and where necessary, students must provide confirmation from their GP (or an external agency if appropriate) to confirm their attendance and progress. There will be no unnecessary disclosure of information and confidentiality will be respected.
- 4.3 For those wishing to discuss problems related to the use of drugs or alcohol, advice is available from Student Support. If a student believes that someone has difficulty in controlling their use of alcohol or drugs they should encourage them to seek support. If they are concerned that they are a danger to themselves or others it is recommended that a member of the Student Support team be informed.

Further details of support available can be found on the following websites:

[www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

[www.thenationalstudent.com/Drugs\\_and\\_Alcohol](http://www.thenationalstudent.com/Drugs_and_Alcohol).

#### **5. Education**

- 5.1 LCDS will endeavour to increase awareness and understanding of drug and alcohol related issues in a number of ways:
  - 5.1.1 LCDS will distribute publicity material to raise student awareness e.g. via the Virtual Learning Environment and Posters
  - 5.1.2 Training will be provided to relevant staff.

## **6. Conclusion**

- 6.1 LCDS has responsibilities to its students and staff and recognizes the importance of providing a safe place to work and study.
- 6.2 LCDS will ensure that appropriate support and advice is available to students but will also take disciplinary action, where illegal activities are taking place and particularly when they endanger the individual student or other members of LCDS.