



Leeds Trinity
University

Drugs Misuse Policy



Student Drugs Misuse Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy statement and guidelines is to set out Leeds Trinity's position on illegal drug use by students and to provide guidelines for dealing with instances that might arise. It is intended to provide appropriate support to students who are misusing drugs, to offer protection from drug misuse to other students in the Leeds Trinity community and to fully comply with the law.

2. Background

This policy builds upon Leeds Trinity practice in complying with the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), which prohibits the possession, selling or giving away of illicit drugs i.e. those drugs controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971).

3. Scope

Security staff involvement extends to all Leeds Trinity premises, (including those of the Student Union). The Leeds Trinity follow up of incidents, liaison with the Police and potential for disciplinary action under the Student Conduct & Discipline Code extends to any place to which a student has access by virtue of his/her status as a student. This would include field trips, attachments and school experience.

4. Policy Statement

Possession and supply of drugs covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) is against the law. Section 8 of this Act places responsibility upon the institution to ensure that appropriate action is taken where there is suspicion that supply or production of drugs is taking place on the premises.

Leeds Trinity undertakes to take appropriate action against students who commit such offences and who may thereby bring Leeds Trinity into disrepute. Alongside this, the institution recognises that it has a duty of care. It will, therefore, endeavour to provide health education and information about the dangers of illicit drugs and will refer students who need help to the appropriate support agencies.

5. Educational and Preventative Measures

Student Support will raise awareness among existing students, new students and staff of the Student Drugs Misuse policy, the dangers of drugs misuse and the support available. Key staff groups (e.g. Security, Domestic staff, Student Support) and resident mentors will be provided with training and support.

6. Police contact & powers

Leeds Trinity will inform the Police of any allegations and/or evidence of drugs manufacture, production, sale or supply.

Leeds Trinity will facilitate access to the Police for individual students or staff wishing to make an allegation of possession of illicit drugs against a student.

The Police contact with the institution is through Security. Police are able to enter student Hall of Residence rooms with a warrant, the agreement of the student concerned or in accordance with the Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1964, code B.

7. Disciplinary Issues

All drugs related incidents involving students will be recorded within the Incident Report process and copied to the Director of Student Support (or nominee). Disciplinary action will be considered in light of any Police action and/or prosecution. Where there is an acquittal, Leeds Trinity may still proceed on a disciplinary basis but will not appear to challenge the Court's decision.

8. Other drug related offences

It is an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971) to manufacture, produce, sell or give illegal drugs to another. Leeds Trinity will contact the Police and may take its own disciplinary action against any student who commits any of these offences on its premises, or in another place where access is by virtue of being a student i.e. field trip, attachment

9. Support for students

Student Support will produce advice within a leaflet for all new students. Additionally, posters will advertise both internally based and external sources of assistance in the local area.

Students seeking help regarding drug misuse are advised to contact Student Health and the counsellors. These discussions would remain confidential, unless the welfare of the student concerned or others was considered by the Counselling Service / Student Health staff to be at serious and immediate risk. Were confidentiality broken on these grounds, Leeds Trinity would not invoke its own disciplinary proceedings or provide to the Police any report regarding Counselling Service / Student Health staff discussions with the student. Only relevant agencies would be contacted.

10. Policy Location

The policy will be available on the Leeds Trinity intranet, in hard copy for senior residents, within Student Support Central Office, the Student Union and at the Security base.

11. Policy Review

The policy will be reviewed triennially by the Director of Student Support (or nominee).

Date: Oct 2014

Review Date: Oct 2017

Appendix 1

Response to Student Drug Related Incidents – GUIDELINES

i) Health Warning

Extreme caution is required when dealing with any drug related incident to avoid infection from bodily fluids and accidental injury from drug users' paraphernalia, including needles, syringes or razor blades. **Only staff trained regarding 'safe procedure' should handle syringes, needles, razor blades or other equipment found at the scene.**

ii) Where there is rumour or allegation of illegal drug use, supply, sale, manufacture or production but no substance found

Students or staff should report allegations of student drugs misuse to Student Support Administrators. For night Security staff, this reporting would be in the form of an Incident Report. Student Support staff will advise regarding Police involvement and action to be taken by the institution. Decisions regarding appropriate disciplinary action within Leeds Trinity would take account of Police response and advice. The Director of Student Support (or nominee) will keep a record of all reported incidents and Student Support response within a Drug Incident Book.

iii) Where a substance is found that appears to be an illegal drug

Staff /senior residents who find what *might* be an illegal drug in a public place on campus, or are informed by a student or any other person of such, should immediately inform Security.

Security staff will follow their 'safe procedure' guidelines.

The Director of Student Support (or nominee) will be sent copies of all drug related Incident Reports involving students and keep a record of all reported incidents and Student Support follow up within a Drug Incident Book.

iv) Where staff/senior residents find a student using illegal drugs

Staff /senior residents are advised to consider the following points:

- (a) It is important not to crowd or threaten drug takers, or expect normal behaviour, as they could react with uncharacteristic violence.
- (b) Any action should be taken with the intention of helping to calm the drug taker and to give reassurance. The support and care of the person found using the drug must always be kept in mind.

Security staff will complete an Incident Report.

The Director of Student Support (or nominee) will be sent copies of drug related Incident Reports involving students and keep a record of all reported incidents and follow up within a Drug Incident Book.

v) *Where a drug related incident constitutes a medical emergency*

Staff should contact Security who will administer First Aid and, if necessary, call an ambulance. Security staff should keep any tablets, substances and/or a sample of any vomit as these may be useful for hospital analysis.

Security staff will follow their 'safe procedure' guidelines.

The Director of Student Support (or nominee) will be sent copies of drug related Incident Reports involving students and keep a record of all reported incidents and follow up within a Drug Incident Book.

vi) *External sources of support for students*

ADS Addiction Dependency Solutions - Leeds - 0113 2470111

Leeds Addiction Unit - 0113 2951300

Smoking – Leeds Smoking Services - 0800 1694219

Drugs Use / Volatile Substance Abuse – Base 10 (ages 13-21) – 0113 2433552

West Leeds Community Drugs Service (part of BARCA-LEEDS) – 0113 2552227

Multiple Choice – Drugs rehabilitation centre (age 19+) – 0113 2456616

APPENDIX 2

DRUGS & THE LAW - INFORMATION & REFERENCES <http://www.drugs.gov.uk/drugs-laws/misuse-of-drugs-act/>

Drug laws & licensing

Misuse of Drugs Act

This is the main piece of legislation covering drugs and categorising drugs into classes A, B and C. These drugs are termed as controlled substances, and Class A drugs are those considered to be the most harmful.

Offences under the Act include

- Possession of a controlled substance unlawfully
- Possession of a controlled substance with intent to supply
- Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug (even where no charge is made for the drug)
- Allowing premises you occupy or manage to be used for the purpose of drug taking

Drug trafficking (supply) attracts serious punishment including life imprisonment for Class A offences.

To enforce this law the police have special powers to stop, detain and search people on 'reasonable suspicion' that they are in possession of a controlled drug.

Classification under the Act

Class A drugs

Include: Ecstasy, LSD, heroin, cocaine, crack, magic mushrooms (if prepared for use) amphetamines (if prepared for injection)

Penalties for possession: Up to seven years in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both

Penalties for dealing: Up to life in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both

Class B drugs

Include: Cannabis, Amphetamines, Methylphenidate (Ritalin), Pholcodine

Penalties for possession: Up to five years in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both

Penalties for dealing: Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both

Class C drugs

Include: Tranquilisers, some painkillers, GHB (Gamma hydroxybutyrate), Ketamine

Penalties for possession: Up to two years in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both

Penalties for dealing: Up to 14 years in prison or an unlimited fine. Or both