

Loddon House Smoking and Drug Misuse Policy

Staff at Loddon House aim to provide a safe and healthy environment in which everyone can live, study and socialise.

Loddon House does not tolerate and prohibits the use, possession, or selling of illegal drugs within the vicinity of Loddon House and smoking within the building is strictly prohibited.

What the Law says

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'. "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) in Loddon House is a disciplinary offense.

The misuse of substances known as 'drugs' is against the criminal law. The term 'drugs' covers a wide range of substances, including cannabis, cocaine and heroin, together with many derivatives or hybrids of these drugs.

The term 'misuse' includes the use, possession, trade, distribution, selling, offering for sale and purchase of drugs, as well as the illegal use of prescription drugs(i.e the use of prescription drugs that have not been legally obtained, or have been used in a manner or for a purpose other than as prescribed)

Our Approach

Any student found in possession of drugs, or using or distributing illegal and controlled substances will be subject to disciplinary action.

The possession, use and distribution of controlled or illegal drugs may also be a criminal offence that can lead to arrest and prosecution.

Loddon House has a zero tolerance approach. Our zero tolerance includes:

- Possession of a controlled substance illegally within Loddon House.
- Possession of controlled substances with the intent to supply within Loddon House.
- Supply or offer to supply a controlled drug within Loddon House.
- Smoking a controlled substance within the vicinity of Loddon House.

Disciplinary Procedure

Each case will be assessed individually, however any student found in possession of, using or dealing illegal drugs (or what are reasonably suspected to be illegal drugs or psychoactive substances) will be subject to disciplinary action. Any student found to be smoking within the building will also be subject to disciplinary action.

The disciplinary process will be undertaken by the management team situated at Loddon House and or may be referred to the police (depending on the severity of the case)

There are a range of possible outcomes following the disciplinary process. You will be either issued with:

- A **Disciplinary Warning Letter** which you will be asked to sign. A copy will be held on your student file. You will also be provided with the appropriate fine.

OR

- You will be served with a **Notice to Quit** and asked to leave Loddon House with 48 hours.

If you have previously been served with a disciplinary letter regarding smoking and or substance misuse, and you are caught in breach of your tenancy agreement thereafter you will be served with a Notice to Quit.

Please note: a Notice to Quit does not release you from the financial liabilities of your contract, and you will have to continue paying the rent despite not being able to live at Loddon House.

Loddon House has a duty to inform the police of any incident involving illegal drugs. This could result in criminal prosecution. If a student is convicted of a drug-related offence, there may be additional implications in the future for employment and travel.

Loddon House student accommodation will also inform your education establishment of the disciplinary process. Students should be aware of the potential implications for professional suitability, professional registration etc.

Reporting suspected drug dealing

The confidentiality of any information which comes to light about personal and private drug use by students will be strictly maintained by staff at Loddon House. Confidentiality will only be broken if there is a severe risk to self and/or others. Please speak to a member of staff at Loddon house for further information.

Sources of Information

Loddon House wishes to support students who have a drug dependency to seek help, and to be supported in doing so.

- Talk to Frank - The Frank website www.talktofrank lists all drugs, gives you full details of what they are, what they look like, the effects you can expect, the law in relation to each drug and the risks of taking each of them.
- Why not find out - Why not find out is an independent and reliable source of information on substances run by the prevention charity Mentor helping to equip young people to avoid drug related risks. Its content has been agreed by independent advisors and drug experts.
- Pavilions - The Pavilions website (www.pavillions.org.uk/think-about-drugs) features information about a range of drugs and alcohol.