

Langley Grammar School



Alcohol and Drugs Policy

September 2026

1. Introduction and definition

The definition of a drug given by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is:

'A substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.'

For the purposes of this policy, the word 'drug' could relate to any of the following substances:

- medicines
- volatile substances, eg solvents
- alcohol
- tobacco and nicotine products, including vapes and nicotine pouches
- illegal (controlled) drugs
- new psychoactive substances (NPS), sometimes referred to as 'legal highs'
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This policy has been developed with regard to the DfE's *Drugs: advice for schools (2012)*. It should be read alongside the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy, Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy, Relationships and Sex Education Policy, Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy and relevant current DfE guidance.

2. Scope of this Policy

This document provides guidance to governors, staff, parents, carers, students and partner agencies with regard to:

- a) how students are taught about drugs, alcohol and related issues;
- b) how the school will respond to instances of drug or alcohol abuse or breaches of current law and / or the school's expectations;
- c) how the school will reinforce and safeguard the health and safety of students and others who use the school premises;
- d) the school's approach to drugs and alcohol and their use for all staff, students, governors, parents and carers, external agencies and the community;
- e) how staff will manage issues with confidence and consistency, and in the best interests of those involved;
- f) how the response to a drug or alcohol-related incident reinforces the School's values and ethos;
- g) how the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol education programme and the management of incidents involving controlled and other unauthorised drugs will be evaluated.

3. School's ethos and values

Langley Grammar School is committed to the effective safeguarding and care of its students. We believe that the misuse of alcohol, or the use of drugs in whatever form other than for treatment of specific medical issues, is detrimental to the wellbeing of our students and all those in our community.

We will seek to educate all students regarding the dangers and effects of alcohol, drugs and a drug-taking culture in order to allow them to make informed choices for themselves and others. The school supports abstinence from drug use and a responsible attitude to alcohol as part of a healthy lifestyle.

The majority of young people of school age will most probably never use a controlled drug or NPS. Of those who do experiment with drugs, very few will go on to become problem drug users. However, most will be occasional users of drugs for medicinal purposes and some may well experiment with tobacco, alcohol or other substances while of school age.

The use of controlled or other unauthorised drugs by Langley Grammar School students is not acceptable on school premises, during school activities, or in other circumstances where the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy applies. The terms of this policy and the responses of the school to any student found to be in breach of it remain relevant whether the student is on school premises, or outside the school boundaries and where their actions might damage the name and reputation of the school.

4. Drugs and Alcohol Education

Aspects of drug and alcohol education are found within the Science programmes of study. In addition, the school provides a drug and alcohol education programme that develops knowledge and understanding, attitudes, personal and social skills to handle situations where drugs and alcohol may be available. This forms part of the school's Personal and Citizenship Studies programme. Details of statutory curriculum provision are set out in the school's Relationships and Sex Education Policy and associated curriculum documentation.

At Langley Grammar School, the aims of drug and alcohol education are to:

- enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing their knowledge, exploring their own and other people's attitudes and developing and practising social skills;
- promote positive attitudes towards healthy lifestyles;
- provide accurate information about drugs and alcohol;
- increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse;
- encourage an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience substance use or abuse;
- widen understanding of related health and social issues, eg sexuality, crime or disease;
- seek to minimise the risks that users and potential users face;
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

The aim of this education at Langley Grammar School is primarily to equip students with factual information about the use of drugs and alcohol, the associated dangers, the effects on themselves and others, and in addition to highlight the areas of support and information available to them both in and out of school.

As part of the Science curriculum, students are provided with factual information on drugs in relation to health issues. Typically this will include information relating to types of drugs and their effects, and the effects of drug groups (eg hallucinogens, depressants etc), smoking and alcohol.

Teaching of these sensitive topics will:

- be appropriate to the abilities and needs of the students;
- take proper account of the different ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- have the safety and well-being of students in mind;
- be non-judgemental, but leave students accurately informed as to the current legal position and the school's attitude;
- support students to adopt a sensible, well-informed attitude towards drugs and related issues.

In the main, it will be teachers who provide drug and alcohol education; where appropriate, outside visitors may contribute to the programme. Teachers have access to support and training as part of their own professional development if and when required.

5. Advice, information and referral

Within the context of the school's drug and alcohol education programme, students may ask for advice regarding drugs or alcohol misuse. Staff involved will provide accurate and unbiased factual information within the remit of this policy, including the provision of information about other sources of guidance, support or help. Giving individual advice about a student's personal use of substances would not be appropriate; any concerns relating to individuals should be passed to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Where drug or alcohol use, possession or supply raises a safeguarding concern, including concerns about coercion or exploitation, staff will follow the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and refer the matter to the DSL or a deputy.

6. Attitudes towards harm reduction strategies

The safer use of illegal substances is not part of the school's general teaching programme. However, this might be touched upon in the curriculum, for example in relation to elements like transmission of disease.

The safer use of illegal substances may be a strategy used by some outside agencies, to which students may be referred if found to be already experimenting. It may be appropriate for outside agencies to use this approach with the school with smaller groups who have clearly identified needs.

7. Parental awareness

Langley Grammar School acknowledges that it will gain more support from parents around drug and alcohol education if parents are kept informed of what issues are covered in drug and alcohol education and are provided with appropriate information on drugs, the misuse of alcohol and sources of help and support. The school will make this information available as and when it believes appropriate.

Arrangements for informing parents in connection with searches and confiscation are set out in the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and will reflect current DfE *Searching, screening and confiscation* guidance.

8. Management of incidents involving alcohol and/or drugs

In dealing with drug and alcohol-related incidents, Langley Grammar School's primary concern will be with the health and safety of those involved and the wellbeing of the School community as a whole. Drugs or alcohol-related incidents can generally be placed into one of three categories:

- rumours of possession, use or dealing on or off school premises;
- actual possession, use or dealing on or off school premises, possibly including first aid response;
- disclosures of personal or others' possession, use or dealing from a student or parent and requests for help and support.

Responses to drug and alcohol-related incidents will take account of the individual circumstances, the welfare and safeguarding needs of those involved and the seriousness of the incident. Behavioural consequences will be determined in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning Policy and, where relevant, the Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Policy. Suspension is a possible response to a drug or alcohol incident, but would always be considered alongside the provision of support for the student in addressing a possible drug or alcohol problem. **Permanent exclusion is likely be appropriate where a student has been involved in the possession of illegal drugs with the intent to supply to others.**

All incidents relating to alcohol or drug use will be recorded on the appropriate school system, including details of the incident and actions taken. Safeguarding concerns will be recorded and managed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

The police may be involved in the investigation of any incident involving the use or suspected use of controlled drugs or new psychoactive substances. Police involvement is highly likely where the incident concerns allegations of dealing or supply to other students. Except where immediate action is required to safeguard a child or others, decisions on whether an incident is reported to the police will be made by the Headteacher, in consultation with the DSL where appropriate.

Further details of the school's procedures for managing incidents involving illegal drugs or alcohol are appended to this policy.

9. Managing students under the influence of alcohol or drugs

Irrespective of the nature of the incident, Langley Grammar School will exercise its duty of care regarding anyone involved in the use of drugs, alcohol or other substances and will act in such a way as to ensure their health and wellbeing. Where there is an immediate concern about a student's health, appropriate first aid or emergency medical assistance will be sought. Where there is a perceived risk to others in school, all reasonable steps will be taken to reduce this threat. This may include reasonable restraint, contacting the police or other appropriate measures. The school will offer support and guidance to students and to others where their behaviour is detrimental to themselves or the care of others. This may include referral to outside agencies that can provide suitable care, guidance and support.

10. Educational visits

This policy and the associated procedures will apply to any educational visit. Students taking part in such visits will be expected to uphold the standards and expectations of the school with regard to alcohol and drug use. If a student is found to be in breach of the school's expectations while on an educational visit, they may be required to be collected from the visit and returned home. In such cases, parents may be asked to meet any costs incurred. Staff leading visits abroad need to check the procedures regarding drugs in those countries before they depart. Group Leaders will have authority from the Headteacher to carry out investigations and searches in line with the Behaviour for Learning Policy and current DfE guidance. On visits outside England, the law of the country concerned must be followed.

11. Policy evaluation and review

The implementation and impact of this policy will be monitored and evaluated by the Governors' Students, Staff and Community Committee. The policy will be reviewed every two years, or whenever there is a significant change in national guidance on the handling of alcohol and/or illegal drugs in schools.

Policy approval

This policy has been reviewed and approved in line with the LGS Policy framework agreed by the Governing Board in July 2023

Reviewed by	Headteacher and DSL	Date	September 2026
Approved by	Headteacher	Date	September 2026
Next Review	Headteacher	Date	June 2028

Appendix A – School procedures for managing incidents

a) Recording information

All information provided by students should be recorded in writing by the student or teacher; this account must then be signed by the student to confirm the information is true and accurate.

Relevant information arising from an incident or investigation will be recorded on the appropriate school system. Searches will be recorded in accordance with the Behaviour for Learning Policy and current DfE guidance. Current DfE guidance says statutory prohibited-item searches and police searches should be recorded in the safeguarding system, whether or not anything is found.

b) Lines of enquiry

Staff conducting an investigation into the possible use of drugs or alcohol will pursue lines of enquiry which may include the following:

- What does the student have to say from their own point of view?
- Is this a one-off incident or a longer term situation?
- What type of drug or alcohol is being used?
- Is the drug illegal or legal?
- What quantity of the drug or alcohol was involved?
- Where did the drug or alcohol come from?
- What was the student's motivation?
- Is the student knowledgeable and careful, or reckless as to their own and other's safety in how the drug or alcohol was being used?
- What are the student's home circumstances?
- Does the student know and understand the school policy and expectations regarding alcohol and illegal drugs?
- Where does the incident appear on a scale from 'possession of a small quantity' to 'persistent supply for profit'?
- If the supply of illegal drugs or alcohol is suspected, how much was supplied? Was the student coerced into the supply role, or is there evidence of organised or habitual supply?

c) Searching students or property

Under section 91 of the *Education and Inspections Act 2006* Langley Grammar School has the general power to discipline a student as appropriate. This general power enables the Headteacher or a designated senior member of staff to confiscate, retain or dispose of a student's property as a disciplinary penalty, where it is reasonable to do so.

This power is compatible with article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights that states students have a right to respect for their private life. The Headteacher or authorised staff have the statutory power to search a student or their possessions **without consent** where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that the student may have a prohibited item or any other item identified by the school as an item which may be searched for.

Searches will always be conducted in accordance with the Department for Education guidance on *Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022)* and in such a way as to reduce embarrassment or distress.

d) Confiscation and disposal of suspected illegal drugs

Confiscation of prohibited items will be managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and the current DfE guidance *Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022)*.

The law permits school staff to take temporary possession of a substance suspected of being an illegal drug for the purposes of preventing an offence from being committed or continued in relation to that drug, provided that steps are taken to destroy the drug or deliver it to a person lawfully entitled to take custody of it.

Staff authorised to conduct a search should:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal any samples found in a plastic bag and include details of the date, time of seizure/find and the witness that is present;
- store it in the school safe with access limited to the Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and School Business Manager;
- without delay inform the police who will collect and store it. The school does not have to divulge the name of the student(s) from which the drugs were taken. Where a student is named, the police may have to follow a set of internal procedures;
- record full details of the incident including the police incident reference number;

Staff should also inform parents or carers as soon as practicable of the search and the outcome. Where there is a safeguarding concern about informing a parent, the DSL will determine how this should be managed in accordance with the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy.

Where the designated person undertaking the search finds other substances which are not believed to be controlled drugs, these can be confiscated if that person believes them to be harmful or detrimental to good order and discipline. This would include new psychoactive substances ('legal highs'). If it is not possible to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug. ***School staff should not attempt to analyse or taste substances.***

e) Disposal of drug paraphernalia

Disposal of prohibited items will be managed in accordance with the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy and the current DfE guidance *Searching, Screening and Confiscation (July 2022)*.

Any drug paraphernalia may be passed to the police if it is relevant to a drug investigation. In the event of discovering needles or syringes on school premises, these will be placed in a sturdy, secure container (for example a tin with a lid). The person dealing with any paraphernalia should contact Student Support and make use of protective gloves. Used needles or syringes will not be disposed of in domestic waste; the school will contact the Environmental Health Department for advice on disposal. Any other items will be disposed of appropriately by the School.

Appendix B – Notes for students

General comments and advice

- Drugs, alcohol or solvent abuse have no place in Langley Grammar School.
- However, we will always listen to you if you have queries about the use and abuse of drugs, 'legal highs', alcohol or solvents or if you are experiencing or are aware of problems related to such substances, either personally, at home or because you have concerns about a friend.
- If you feel you have a problem related to substance abuse, you can ask to discuss this with a member of the Safeguarding Team and we will do our best to help you. We will try to preserve your confidentiality, but we cannot guarantee to do this if we feel you are at risk. If we are concerned that you have a serious problem related to substance abuse, we may refer you to the appropriate people who can help you.
- It is the responsibility of every student to alert a member of staff if you are aware that another student is under the influence of any of the above substances. They need help.

How we will manage drug or alcohol incidents

If you come to school and we know or suspect you have taken drugs, used solvents or 'legal highs' or are under the influence of alcohol:

- We will deal with you professionally but firmly and we will take immediate action.
- If you are clearly unwell or are unsafe, we will take medical advice and if necessary send you for medical attention elsewhere.
- We will contact your parents (or named emergency contact) and ask them either to collect you from school or inform them where you have been sent for treatment. You will not be allowed to go home on your own from school.
- Should you behave aggressively or violently, we have the right to use reasonable restraint or if necessary to call the police. Your safety and the safety of other students and staff is our paramount concern.
- If you behave badly as a result of being under the influence of drugs, alcohol or solvents, this will not be seen as an excuse. Any such incident will be followed up by actions in accordance with the school's Behaviour for Learning Policy.

Drugs, alcohol or solvents

- You are forbidden from bringing any of these into school. In the case of illegal drugs, this is a criminal offence. If you are suspected of intending to deal or supply drugs, this is an even more serious offence.
- Designated members of staff have the right to search you and your possessions if you are suspected of having brought substances into school. Your parents may be informed if a search is to take place; however, they cannot prevent or unduly delay the search.
- Anything found in your possession will be clearly labelled and sealed in your presence. It will be handed on to the appropriate person(s). Your parents will be informed of the outcome of any search and what further action the school will take.
- In the case of drugs, the police will normally be informed and their advice sought. The law does not require us to divulge your name to the police, but it is usually our policy to do so.
- If you are found to have been involved in the purchase, possession or consumption of illegal drugs or substances, you may expect as a minimum penalty a period of suspension from the school and quite probably permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion is the normal sanction if you have been involved in supplying illegal drugs to others; it is also possible that criminal proceedings may follow.