



ALCOHOL POLICY

Langley School's policy on access to alcohol is based on the principle of educating students in order to allow them to make informed healthy lifestyle choices. The safety, welfare and well-being of such students remains at the forefront of the content of this document, a result of which means that the school forbids the possession of, the storage of, and consumption of alcohol by pupils and students except in the circumstances described below. The Law provides a framework for the provision of alcohol to those under 18, and Langley takes consideration of that, but such provision applies to students in the 6th form only.

Given the nature of the school, this policy has been divided into 3 sections – social functions on-site for day and boarding students (*this is extended to include school trips and visits – see Educational Visits Policy*), provision for boarders on-site and provision for boarders off-site.

Social functions:

Before organised functions where alcohol may be served, parental consent forms giving permission for student consumption of alcohol will be held by the school in advance. There shall be no functions which allow students in Years 6-11 to be served alcohol.

There will be strict levels of supervision and safe storage of alcohol, with adults only (not 6th formers) serving; students will not be able to serve themselves or purchase alcohol without such supervision. At such functions water and soft drinks will be freely available. Students will be allowed up to 2 beers/cider (based on 2x500ml max) or 2 standard glasses of wine. Any transgressions will lead to a restriction of access to alcohol, followed by disciplinary meetings with the Headmaster or his representatives at an appropriate time. Sanctions will be determined in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

Staff members must follow guidelines as set out in the Staff Code of Conduct.

Parents will be expected to support school policy by not bringing alcohol onto school premises or to school arranged functions.

Boarders on-site:

Circumstances (subject to current laws) may allow 6th formers to be given alcohol by staff under the conditions above (levels of supervision, storage and amount) on a weekend evening, as long as permission has been sought from parents. Any 6th former who is given alcohol must not consume it in areas where younger students may observe them, nor in any area beyond where the staff instruct such limited consumption to take place. Staff may refuse to allow alcohol to be consumed by any 6th former who may have transgressed regulations in the past or whose health may be impaired. If suspicions of undeclared, illicit storage of alcohol are reasonably aroused, then staff will exercise the right to conduct searches of students' property and areas in the correct manner. Given the seriousness of such transgressions, any student found in possession of alcohol under such circumstances can expect to be interviewed by the Headmaster or his representative, parents to be informed and the appropriate sanction handed out, which could include exclusion from school.

Boarders off-site:

Boarders who are given permission to leave site during weekends are not to break the law, in terms of accessing alcohol during this time. No student is expected to return to school “worse for wear”.

When arranging leave-out from school (e.g. attending parties which involves overnight stays), if there is a suspicion that alcohol may be available, Boarding staff reserve the right to contact host families to ascertain the level of safety in terms of lodging arrangements and the supervision of students at the function as well as finding out details of the duration of the stay. The school reserves the right to veto any arrangement which is likely to imperil the reasonable level of welfare of the student.

If a student is in breach of the terms set out above, disciplinary action will take place, as laid out in the behaviour policy. In addition, a student may incur charges for supervision if his/her condition warrants specific close supervision or attendance at medical facilities (£40 per hour). Parents living locally may be called to retrieve students so that they may be monitored at home. The health and well-being of the student will be taken into consideration when setting timings of disciplinary interviews.

The school reserves the right to act more severely if any incident warrants such a response and repeat offenders may also find their position in the school in jeopardy.