



## **RESPONSE TO ALCOHOL, SMOKING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY**

### **ALCOHOL**

This policy is in line with the strategy of the school. Our purpose at Langley is to enable every young person to flourish and positively contribute with confidence. This is achieved by ensuring that the school is a **community of opportunity and excellence**. We celebrate achievement and encourage all pupils to take ownership, contribute, expect high standards and make good things happen for themselves and everyone around them. Policies give the framework and procedural guidance to allow this to happen.

Langley School's response 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 6<sup>th</sup> form only.

Given the nature of the school, our responses have 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 requested by the school in advance. There shall be no functions which allow pupils in Years 6-11 to be served alcohol.

There will be strict levels of supervision and safe storage of alcohol, with adults only (not 6<sup>th</sup> 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 at an appropriate time in accordance with our Behaviour Policy.

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

Parent and Guardians 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 6<sup>th</sup> formers (excluding any under the age of 16) to be given alcohol by staff under the conditions above (levels of supervision, storage and

amount), as long as permission has been sought from parent/guardians. Any 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 pupils' property and areas in the correct manner. Given the seriousness of such transgressions, any pupil found in possession of alcohol under such circumstances can expect to be interviewed by the Head of Boarding and/or Deputy Head, parents/guardians 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. In line with our Behaviour Policy, Boarders, regardless of age, should not return to Langley over the drink drive limit. If a boarder is following the law and planning to consume alcohol off-site, prior permission must be sought from parents/guardians and the Head of Boarding. If boarding staff suspect that a boarder has consumed alcohol without prior arrangement or is over the drink drive limit the staff reserve the right to breathalyse the pupil, using a standard approved unit purchased from Boots the chemist called 'AlcoSense' or appropriate equivalent.

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 will 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 are 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.*

### **Parents and Guardians**

If parents attending school premises appear to be under the influence of alcohol, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection/safeguarding. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the leadership team who may telephone the police. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of alcohol, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's child protection procedures will be followed.

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## SMOKING AND VAPING

The following information details how the School actively responds to the issue of smoking and vaping by pupils/students and describes the sanctions that may be imposed on those caught breaking the rules.

Langley strives to provide a healthy, safe environment for pupils, students, staff and visitors alike. Following the provisions of the Health Act 2006 the school declares itself to be a non-smoking establishment (save for designated smoking areas for adult employees and visitors on specified occasions). The school regards the use of e-cigarettes and equipment used for 'vaping' in the same light as all other means of smoking.

### **Tackling smoking and Vaping**

Pupils and students are actively discouraged from smoking through:

- effective education;
- effective and clear sanctions;
- effective policing.

### **Effective education**

The short and longer-term effects of smoking and vaping are explored as part of the Personal Development Education programme, and all pupils/students are encouraged to involve themselves in promoting an anti-smoking culture.

The Medical Centre holds information about strategies to aid giving up the practice for those who are regular smokers. Pupils/students are encouraged to discuss worries about smoking/vaping with pastoral staff, Medical staff and appropriate support staff without fearing sanctions so that they may receive support in the cessation of or abandonment of any habit. As part of this support, a health action plan approved by the school Medical Team will be put in place where necessary. It may be appropriate for a pupil/student to discreetly wear a nicotine 'patch'.

### **Effective and clear sanctions**

As outlined in the section on Substance Abuse, if a pupil volunteers that they are a regular smoker or vaper, then they will be supported by the Medical staff to quit the practice, without sanctions being imposed.

Sanctions will be issued for:

- smoking/vaping on the school site;
- being in possession of smoking materials and paraphernalia, including vapes;
- being caught in the company of smokers;
- smelling of cigarette smoke which indicates involvement with smoking;

If a pupil/student is caught in possession of loose tobacco, filter tips, cigarette papers etc, they may be asked to take a drugs test given the use of these materials for smoking cannabis. (The school's Drug and Substance Abuse policy will also be referred to in this instance).

All sanctions will be issued as per the school's Behaviour Policy. In the event of involvement in a smoking/vaping-related incident the pupil/student will meet with the Deputy Head, Pastoral, a suspension will be issued, the length of which to be determined according to the circumstances. Any materials will be confiscated and destroyed, the pupil/student will be referred to the School Nurse for anti-smoking/vaping education and guidance. If the pupil/student is a boarder and the incident occurs in boarding, the Behaviour Policy will be followed as above in consultation with the Head of Boarding. Parents/guardians will be informed of the sanction.

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Further involvement, or in the case of a student being caught smoking indoors, will require the student to be interviewed by the Headmaster to include a review of the pupil's/student's position in the school, due to the fact that they are endangering others.

*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. This will be decided on a case by case basis.*

### **Effective policing**

Effective policing is intended to make it difficult for pupils/students to smoke/vape. Known smoking/vaping areas will be closely monitored on a regular basis by staff and prefects during the day and in the evenings.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Pupil/students' wellbeing is of paramount importance and Langley is committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment by delivering a clear, consistent moral framework. Worryingly, we live in a society where illicit drugs are readily available and where our children are often under considerable pressure to experiment with tobacco, alcohol and drugs. At Langley we seek to deter pupils/students from using drugs, rather than to catch them out and force them to leave the school. Experience has shown that those parents whose children have been placed on the testing programme are usually very grateful because they know that for the remainder of their child's time at Langley, he or she is not using drugs.

### **Definitions**

This policy covers the possession, use and supply of drugs and applies at all times, whether or not the student is in the care of the school.

"Drugs" means without limitation controlled drugs including Class A, B and C drugs. It also means solvents, aerosols, performance-enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, mushrooms, nitrous oxide and other substances possessed or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse, such as psychoactive substances.

### **Education**

Through our extensive Personal Development Education programme we aim to educate pupils/students about the potential short-term and long-term impacts on health from drug abuse. We strive to give our pupils/students the understanding and self-confidence to reject drugs, whilst taking measures to keep the school community protected from such misuse. These teachings also include an ethical dimension, designed to help the students understand the importance of complying with the law.

### **School Rules**

- If a pupil or student is found to have brought drugs onto the school site, then they can expect to be expelled.
- If a pupil or student is found to be supplying drugs to others, then they can expect to be expelled and the authorities informed.
- If a pupil or student has any involvement with Class A drugs, whether in school or out of school, then they can expect to be expelled and the authorities will be informed.

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- If a pupil or student has taken a Class B or C drug, they will be suspended from school for a period of time determined by a Deputy Head, or the Headmaster. They will only be allowed to return to school on the understanding that:
  - they will be placed on the School's 'Enhanced Drug Testing' programme (this will be carried out at least once a half term);
  - if there is a subsequent positive test or if it is found out that the pupil or student has any further involvement with drugs, then they will be expelled from the School. Parents/Guardians will have the opportunity to have the sample tested by an independent laboratory, at their own expense. The School will arrange the testing.
- If a pupil or student is in the company of another pupil or student who are caught using an illegal drug (or any substance that contravenes this Policy) the School reserves the right to deal with the matter as a breach of School discipline. This will be termed 'involvement with drugs by association'.

### **Suspicion of misuse**

If a member of staff has reason to suspect that a pupil or student is misusing drugs in, or out of, school, whether in term or holiday time, they must report the situation through the pupil's or student's Head of Year or directly to the Deputy Head (Pastoral), who will decide, in consultation with medical staff, if further investigation is warranted.

If there is a reasonable suspicion of drug or substance abuse, then that pupil or student will be interviewed and asked to undergo a drugs test. These suspicions may be raised because of:

- changes in behaviour;
- physical changes which act as a sign of abuse;
- implication by word of mouth;
- academic performance is significantly below expectation;
- suspected involvement in a drug related incident;

The relevant consent to a drugs test is that of the pupil, rather than the parent, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age (provided that they are of sufficient maturity and that they fully understand the situation). In these circumstances parents should be informed as soon as is reasonably possible after the event. If the test proves positive, then the School's Behaviour policy will be applied accordingly.

A refusal by a pupil or student to undergo a test will be deemed as an admission of guilt and will be dealt with as if a test was returned positive.

If a pupil is found to have taken a prescribed drug that doesn't belong to them, it will be viewed as a positive test. It is illegal to consume someone else's prescribed drug and the police view this as a Class C offence.

### **Testing procedures**

All testing will be in line with good practice and will be taken under the supervision of the School's medical staff, although the relevant Head of Year or Deputy Head (Pastoral) should be present also. Medical staff will use a multi-panel drug test from Surescreen Diagnostics. The School will cover the cost of a first test if it is negative, otherwise the cost must be borne by the parents.

### **Support- Drug Testing Programme**

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If a pupil or student comes forward and voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user and asks for help, we will support that individual to help them to reform their habit. Under these circumstances the pupil or student will be entered into the School's 'Support Drug Testing' programme. As the pupil or student has sought help they will be supported, they will be offered the services of the School Counsellor or the 'Time to Talk' service as appropriate. They may also be signposted towards appropriate external help (see Appendix A). The pupil or student will also be asked to take a drugs test at regular intervals, and should it be returned positive then the School rules will be applied as mentioned previously.

### **Random Drug Testing Programme**

In order to protect the welfare and wellbeing of pupils and students, the School will conduct random drug testing of pupils and students. If the results of the test are positive, then the School rules will be applied as outlined earlier in this document.

### **Contact with Police and External Agencies**

If a pupil or student is found to be in possession of an illegal drug or substance or if a pupil has taken an illegal drug or substance, the school may inform the Police of the pupil's name and home address. If there is deemed to be a safeguarding concern, the School may also contact Norfolk Children's Services. If drugs are found on site, they will be logged and stored securely. The Police will be notified so they can come to the School and take the drugs away to be officially destroyed. Pupils and students may also be referred to external agencies for support, these are listed in Appendix A.

### **Parents**

If parents attending school premises appear to be under the influence of drugs, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead for child protection/safeguarding. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs, the member of staff should report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the leadership team who may telephone the police. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's child protection procedures will be followed.

## **Appendix A - Useful Organisations**

**Addaction** is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website:

[www.addaction.org.uk](http://www.addaction.org.uk)

**ADFAM** offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services. Tel: 020 7553 7640 Email: [admin@adfam.org.uk](mailto:admin@adfam.org.uk) Website:

[www.adfam.org.uk](http://www.adfam.org.uk)

**Alcohol Concern** works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510.

Email: [contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk](mailto:contact@alcoholconcern.org.uk) Website: [www.alcoholconcern.org.uk](http://www.alcoholconcern.org.uk)

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**ASH (Action on Smoking and Health)** A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: [enquiries@ash.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ash.org.uk) Website: [www.ash.org.uk](http://www.ash.org.uk)

**Drinkaware** - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm. Tel: 020 7307 7450 Website: [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)

**Drinkline** - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking. Tel: 0800 917 8282 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

**Drug Education Forum** - this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: Website: [www.drugeducationforum.com/](http://www.drugeducationforum.com/)

**DrugScope** is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum. Tel: 020 7520 7550 Email: [info@drugscope.org.uk](mailto:info@drugscope.org.uk) Website: [www.drugscope.org.uk](http://www.drugscope.org.uk)

**FRANK** is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: [frank@talktofrank.com](mailto:frank@talktofrank.com) Website: [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)

**Mentor UK** is a non-government organisation with a focus on protecting the health and wellbeing of children and young people to reduce the damage that drugs can do to their lives. Tel: 020 7739 8494. Email [admin@mentoruk.org](mailto:admin@mentoruk.org) Website: [www.mentoruk.org.uk](http://www.mentoruk.org.uk)

**Re-Solv** (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse) A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: [information@re-solv.org](mailto:information@re-solv.org) Website: [www.re-solv.org](http://www.re-solv.org)

**Stars National Initiative** offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: [www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk](http://www.starsnationalinitiative.org.uk)

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