

Safeguarding Statement

Langley Park School for Girls is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Equality & Diversity Statement

Langley Park School for Girls is committed to valuing and celebrating diversity and promoting equality of opportunity for all its staff and students. We are working to create a learning and working environment which is free from prejudice, discrimination, intimidation and all forms of harassment including bullying. Respect for rights is at the heart of our planning, policies, practice and ethos and we expect all members of our school community to model this in their behaviour and relationships.

DRUG POLICY

Approval Body:	Senior Leadership Team
Approval Date:	31st January 2017
Implementation Date:	1st February 2017
Designated Person (as appropriate):	Headteacher
Committee with Remit (as appropriate):	Teaching & Learning
Review Date:	Continuous

Version History

Version	Approval Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	January 2017	New updated policy – staff consulted 24.01.2017
2.0		

DRUG POLICY

This policy is under continuous review by the Senior Leadership Team and the Governors' Teaching and Learning Sub-committee because of the changing drugs scene both nationally and locally.

1. Ethos of the school

The school seeks to provide a supportive and nurturing environment in which all students are enabled to develop their learning and personal skills. This strives carefully to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences they may encounter in their future lives and this policy has been written in accordance with this philosophy.

2. Rationale

It is our aim to help all students to be able to take their place safely in a world where a wide range of drugs exists. We recognise that some drugs have beneficial medicinal effects, but also that every drug has potential harm. For this reason, all drugs need appropriate and responsible care and management. In order to be able to make informed choices, staff and students need to understand the nature of drugs, their social and legal status, their uses and effects.

3. Definition of a drug

A drug is a substance that affects the way in which the body functions physically, emotionally or mentally. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as: alcohol & tobacco, volatile substances, over the counter & prescription medicines.

4. Aims of the policy

- To support the school's endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students and staff
- To clarify legal responsibilities, entitlement and obligations
- To support all the members of the school community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency
- To develop a whole school approach to drug education in the context of the curriculum of the school

5. Policy background

This policy has been written with reference to national guidelines and been informed by relevant research data.

6. Drug Education

The School has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco. This is expressed in assemblies, Tutor periods, Science lessons and Religious, Personal and Social Education lessons.

In Science lessons the School follows the National Curriculum Science Order concerning Drug Education. This is as follows:

- How smoking affects lung structure and gas exchange
- How abuse of alcohol, solvents and other drugs affect health
- The effects of solvents, alcohol and tobacco on the body and functions

In PHSE through Tutor groups and assemblies, the following issues are addressed:

- Recognising personal responsibility for decisions about substance use
- Knowledge about the basic facts concerning substances including their effects and relevant legislation
- Awareness of myths, misconceptions and stereotypes linked with substance abuse
- The development of appropriate techniques for coping with situations in which substance

- abuse occurs
- Understanding that Britain is a drug-using society and recognising different patterns of use and their effect
- Recognising the impact of peer-group pressure on drug habits
- Individuals are responsible for the choices they make about drug use
- Being able to analyse safe levels of intake; e.g. tobacco is never safe, limited use of alcohol may be safe
- Discussing the role of the media in influencing attitudes towards drugs, particularly smoking and alcohol

7. Drugs on school premises

The legal definition of premises of a school includes everything within the property boundaries including buildings, outbuildings, playgrounds, fields and also extends to include other settings such as vehicles, boats, marquees or any venue managed by the school at the time e.g. premises of a school trip or visit.

8. Medicines

The school has a policy/procedure for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety.

9. Alcohol

No alcohol will be consumed during the course of a normal school day. Students and visitors under the effects of alcohol will be asked to leave the premises and return at a later date for the safety of the whole school. Parents will be asked to collect their children.

10. Smoking

The school is a no smoking site at all times. Students are not permitted to bring to school smoking materials, including matches and lighters. In the interests of health and safety, should a student be found in possession of any of these on school premises, they will be confiscated and parents informed. We will treat 'vaping' and E cigarettes in the same way as we treat cigarettes.

11. Illegal drugs

No illegal drugs, including the now banned substances which used to be called 'legal highs' are allowed to be brought on to, or used on school premises.

12. Legal Highs

Police will be asked immediately to collect the substance to ascertain its nature and origin. Contact must be made with the School Liaison Officer AND notifying the police through dialling 101. Item held securely, logged into the school safe awaiting collection.

13. Alcohol

Will be returned to parent/carers or disposed of in consultation with parent/carers

14. Solvents

The school will ensure that potentially hazardous substances are stored safely, and students will be supervised if it is necessary that they come into contact with them in the course of their work. Students are not permitted to be in possession of sniffable products.

15. Responses to drug related incidents

A drug incident may be any of the following:

- Finding drugs, or related paraphernalia, on school premises
- Possession of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Use of drugs by an individual on school premises
- Supply of drugs on school premises
- Individuals disclosing information about their drug use
- Rumours of parents, staff or students using drugs
- Reports of parents, staff or students using drugs

The school is aware of its legal responsibilities in regard to drug related incidents and in responding to incidents, seeks to work in line with local and national guidance. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will normally be responsible for co-ordinating the management of drug-related incidents, offering sources of support and liaising with outside agencies. Incidents will be dealt with after making an assessment of the situation and will be reported to the Headteacher. All incidents and responses will be recorded within 24 hours.

16. Searches, police and parents

In line with recent legislation our staff reserve the right to search students if they have reason to believe that they are carrying offensive weapons or illegal substances. Similarly students can expect to be physically restrained if they present a danger to themselves or other members of the community. Searches will be carried out by Heads of Year or members of the Senior Leadership team. Parents/Carers will always be informed when this has happened. If inappropriate articles are brought in to school or used inappropriately they may be confiscated and kept in the school safe for collection at the end of the day. If these items are dangerous or illegal they may be handed to the Police for safe disposal. We commit to informing parents in advance in writing or by telephone if these sanctions are to be imposed. LPGS works closely with its Police Liaison Officers. If students are involved with any activity which breaks the law the police may be involved in the confiscation of items, Restorative Justice Conferencing, group work and education as well as links with home. Parents/Carers will always be informed when the police are involved and given the opportunity to attend any interviews.

17. Taking possession of drugs

In taking temporary possession and disposing of suspected controlled drugs staff are advised to:

- ensure that a second adult witness is present throughout;
- seal the sample in a plastic bag and include details of the date and time of the seizure/find and witness present;
- store it in a secure location, such as a safe or other lockable container with access limited to senior members of staff;
- notify the police without delay, who will collect it and then store or dispose of it in line with locally agreed protocols. The law does not require a school to divulge to the police the name of the pupil from whom the drugs were taken but it is advisable to do so;
- record full details of the incident, including the police incident reference number;
- inform parents/carers, unless this is not in the best interests of the pupil;
- identify any safeguarding concerns and develop a support and disciplinary response (see below).

School staff are best placed to decide on the most appropriate response to tackling drugs within their school. This is most effective when:

- it is supported by the whole school community;
- drug education is part of a well-planned programme of PSHCE education.

Appropriate support will be offered to those with substance related problems. Talking with an individual about a drug related incident will have as its purpose to confirm or reject suspicions or allegations, rather than conduct a wider investigation. Evidence of drug use or possession will not necessarily result in permanent exclusion. Permanent exclusion will only be considered in serious cases and will be in accordance with Department for Education guidance on exclusions. A case conference will be called if necessary. Each case will be assessed and levels of sanctions may vary according to the seriousness of the incident and the student's involvement.

18. Support for students

At our school the welfare of the student is paramount. We maintain that constructive strategies that enable students to continue to benefit from continued education are usually preferable to exclusion. Where appropriate, following actions to preserve safety, the health and emotional needs of students will be considered. Support is available through the pastoral system, to ensure a caring response to

students in distress. Interventions will be considered if the school feels a student is showing signs which indicate particular risks of, or from, involvement with drugs, whether their own or their parents'/carers'. Such interventions may include consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, possible case conferences and subsequent referral.

19. Confidentiality

Complete secrecy can never be promised to a student, though information given in confidence will not generally be disclosed to anyone else. In particular if a student chooses to disclose that they are using a drug without medical authorisation, this information will not be used against them. However, action will be taken to ensure the student comes to no serious harm if this is considered a risk. Regarding disclosures staff need to carefully define and communicate the boundaries of confidentiality offered.

20. Sanctions

The school will always seek to respond appropriately to each individual case by selecting from a range of possible responses, that which is most appropriate. The school will liaise with the Police to ensure a proportionate response. Evidence of drug use or possession may result in fixed term exclusion or in extreme circumstances a student may be subject to a permanent exclusion or a managed move to another school.