

LUTTERWORTH HIGH SCHOOL



DRUGS AND ALCOHOL POLICY

Reviewed by:	By the Achievement and Attainment Committee 17/9/2025
Adopted by Governing Board:	30/09/2025
Signed (Chair of Governors):	Chair of Governors: Carmella Hunt
Date:	30/09/2025
Signed (Headteacher):	Julian Kirby
Date:	30/09/2025
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Linked Policies: Behaviour; Child Protection & Safeguarding; Medical Conditions; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

1. Policy Context

This policy is informed by the Department for Education guidance on Searching, Screening and Confiscation (2022), Behaviour in Schools (2022), Keeping Children Safe in Education (2025), and the joint DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools. Lutterworth High School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of all students, staff, and the wider community. The school takes a zero-tolerance approach to the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs and alcohol on school premises, while balancing this with our duty of care to provide education, prevention, and appropriate support.

We recognise our responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and ensure that the needs of all students, including those with SEND, are taken into account. Our aim is to prepare students to make safe and informed decisions in a society where drugs, alcohol, vaping products and other substances are present.

2. Education and Prevention

Drugs, alcohol and health education are taught through Social Wellbeing, Science, assemblies and tutor programmes. Students benefit from specialist input, so the school ensures that external professionals provide age-appropriate education at regular points throughout a student's time here. Staff receive annual training on drug awareness and safeguarding, with a particular focus on emerging risks such as vaping and nitrous oxide misuse. Our approach is proactive, combining discipline with support, resilience-building and restorative practice.

3. Definition of a Drug

For the purposes of this policy, a drug is any substance that affects the body physically, emotionally or mentally. This includes all illegal drugs controlled by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, as well as legal but harmful substances such as alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes, vapes, nitrous oxide, volatile substances, alkyl nitrites (known as poppers), and new psychoactive substances. It also includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines when misused, and drug-related paraphernalia such as canisters, grinders, rolling papers, lighters and pipes.

4. School Premises

The policy applies to all school grounds. It also applies to students when travelling to and from school, when taking part in off-site activities, trips and fixtures, and whenever they are identifiable as members of Lutterworth High School.

5. Rules and Expectations

Alcohol is not permitted on school premises under any circumstances. Smoking and vaping are also prohibited: Lutterworth High School is a completely smoke-free and vape-free site. Illegal drugs and psychoactive substances are strictly banned, and possession, use or supply will result in serious disciplinary action, up to and including permanent exclusion. Solvents and other hazardous substances are also not permitted unless required for supervised curriculum purposes.

6. Responses to Drug-Related Incidents

Drug-related incidents may include finding drugs or paraphernalia on site, the possession, use or supply of unauthorised substances, or a student disclosing personal or parental drug use. They may also involve misuse of substances in a way that endangers health, safety or the reputation of the school, or the glamorising and encouraging of drug use either in person or online.

All incidents will be reported to the Headteacher within 24 hours, and parents or carers will be informed unless there are safeguarding reasons not to do so. The school will work with external agencies such as the police, Turning Point, Early Help or health services where necessary. Permanent exclusion will be considered in serious or repeated cases where a student's actions pose significant risk to others or bring the school into disrepute.

7. Support for Students

The welfare of students remains the school's priority, and early intervention is encouraged wherever possible. Support may include counselling, assistance from tutors or Key Stage Hubs, individual reintegration plans, restorative conversations, and referral to outside agencies such as Turning Point, Aquarius, CAMHS or GPs.

8. Right to Search

In line with DfE guidance, staff may search students where there is reasonable suspicion that they are carrying drugs, alcohol or related items. Searches will be conducted by senior staff, with a witness present, and will always be recorded. Parents and carers will be informed. The police may be called where appropriate.

Strip searches can only be conducted by police officers, never by school staff. While the decision rests with the police, staff at Lutterworth High School will continue to advocate for the student's welfare and mental health throughout the process. Less invasive measures must always be considered before contacting the police.

9. Confidentiality

The school seeks to work in partnership with parents and carers at all times. However, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed where safeguarding concerns exist. Disclosures of drug use will be handled sensitively but must always be managed in line with safeguarding procedures.

10. Useful Contacts

Support and advice are available from a wide range of organisations including FRANK, Turning Point Leicestershire, Drinkaware, Action on Smoking and Health (ASH), Re-Solv, Childline, and Leicestershire Police.

Appendix

Useful Organisations

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 020 3817 9410

Email admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change uk 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 3907 8480

Email: contact@alcoholchange.org.uk

Website: www.alcoholconcern.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Tel: 020 7404 0242

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: [Action on Smoking and Health \(ASH\)](http://Action on Smoking and Health (ASH))

Children's Legal Centre operates a free and confidential legal advice and information service covering all aspects of law and policy affecting children and young people. Tel:

01206 714 650 (general queries only)

Email: info@coramclc.org.uk

Website: <https://www.childrenslegalcentre.com>

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 7766 9900

Website: <https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/>

Drink line - A free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking.

Tel: 0300 123 1110 (lines are open 24 hours a day)

Drug wise 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. Website: <https://www.drugwise.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: 0300 123 6600

Email: frank@talktofrank.com:

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Family Lives - A charity offering support and information to anyone parenting a child or teenager. It runs a free-phone helpline and courses for parents, and develops innovative projects.

Tel: 0808 800 2222 Website: www.familylives.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. Text: 07496 959930 Information line: 01785 810762.

Email: info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

Smokefree - NHS Smoking Helpline: 0300 123 1044; Website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree>

Stars National Initiative offers support for anyone working with children, young people and families affected by parental drug and alcohol misuse. Website: www.childrenssociety.org.uk

Youth Offending Teams – Local Youth Offending Teams are multi-agency teams and are the responsibility of the local authority, who have a statutory duty to prevent offending by young people under the age of 18.

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/youth-offending-team>