



## DRUGS, ALCOHOL & SMOKING POLICY

Person responsible: Senior Deputy Head  
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The King's School aims to foster co-operation within the school community to promote the health and safety of all its members and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being.

### **Policy Aims**

The King's School believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use and misuse:

1. To enable pupils to make healthy, well-informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes, and developing and practising decision-making skills.
2. To provide accurate information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use.
3. To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse.
4. To widen the pupils' understanding about related health and social issues.
5. To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

### **Education**

These aims are fulfilled by a programme of health education, which is appropriate to the pupil's age and level of development. This programme will be delivered mainly through PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons but will be reinforced in other parts of the teaching curriculum and also informally in houses, for example. The school periodically invites outside speakers to further reinforce its commitment to health education. Members of the teaching staff and Matrons are made aware of issues and policies by whole school INSET.

### **Individual Support**

Individual support to pupils is available through Housemasters and Housemistresses, Matrons, the chaplaincy team, the School Medical Centre and the School Counsellor. Pupils may also be referred to private specialist clinics with parental permission.

### **DRUGS**

The School considers that the use of illegal drugs or so-called 'legal highs' (including nitrous oxide and any performance enhancing drugs) is likely to be damaging to a young person's health, safety, independence and respect of the law; and will also damage the integrity of the School community by possibly exposing others to temptation and to the risk of criminal proceedings.

It should be noted that the school's definition of drugs includes illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C) and those substances which are misused to create a so-called 'legal high'. These include Nitrous Oxide, alkyl nitrates ('poppers'), ketamine, khat, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour that can be inhaled), prescribed medication as well as controlled drugs, but this is not an exhaustive list. In addition, performance enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, fall within the scope of this policy.

A programme of education about drugs will involve pupils during their time at the School. The programme will be arranged through the established curriculum, through the Personal, Social and Health Education syllabus and through specially invited external speakers.

It is the policy of the King's School to discourage the use of illegal drugs or 'legal highs'. Any cases of the use or possession by pupils of such substances or of any drugs paraphernalia will be treated as a very serious breach of discipline and those involved should expect to be expelled.

A pupil becoming involved with drug misuse must expect to leave the School; those who have acted as a source of supply will be expelled automatically. Where there is reasonable cause for suspicion that a pupil may be involved with drugs, a pupil may be questioned and rooms and personal possessions searched. A saliva or urine test may be taken and sent for analysis by an independent and approved agent. The procedures are available to parents on request. Testing is the best possible protection for the innocent as well as compelling evidence against those who would put others at risk. Refusal to take a test will be regarded as a disciplinary offence and the school may proceed as if there had been a positive test. The school has the right to inform the police of the possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, as it constitutes a criminal offence.

This policy is seen as being in the best interests of all pupils.

## **ALCOHOL**

Pupils are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol. The effects on health of alcohol and its social implications will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Personal, Social and Health Education course, and in tutorials. Help and advice is also available via the School's medical practice and counselling service. There are breathalysers available in all houses.

Below the Sixth Form consumption of alcohol at any time and in any circumstances is forbidden. In certain circumstances (such as school events where members of staff are present), Sixth Formers may be allowed to drink beer or wine in moderation; a non-alcoholic drink must always be offered as an alternative and food will always be offered on such occasions. Those in the Sixth Form who attain 17 years may apply for membership of the Junior Common Room Club where they may buy (for themselves only) limited amounts of beer and wine on specified occasions, under the supervision of staff. Sixth formers are also allowed to drink beer or wine in moderation when on supper leave in the city at weekends. The rules on supper leaves are published in Houses.

It is School practice that at a School dinner, dance or other social gathering for Sixth Formers, there should be no alcohol available prior to assembly at the venue of the event, that all drinks should be served and not freely available on tables and that there must be no unrestricted access to a bar, even if pupils are over 18.

The consumption of spirits at any time and in any circumstances is forbidden. The unauthorised possession of any alcoholic drink is also forbidden.

If a pupil breaks the code outlined above, or is in the company of pupils who do so, the following will normally apply:

- (i) A first offence involving beer, wine or similar will be dealt with by the Housemaster or Housemistress: a detention will be imposed, and possibly a gating, a letter will be sent home to parents and the Senior Deputy Head will be informed.

- (ii) For a second offence involving beer, wine etc. or a first offence involving spirits, the pupils will be referred to the Senior Deputy Head or Headmaster who may impose a lengthy detention, and a letter will be sent to parents; alternatively it may be decided to impose a period of suspension.
- (iii) For further offences involving alcohol, pupils will be dealt with by the Headmaster whose powers of sanction include all the foregoing and, in addition, expulsion.

It is hoped that the School's policy on alcohol at school will be helpful to parents organising private functions for teenagers in the holidays.

### **SMOKING**

Pupils are forbidden to smoke. The effects on health of smoking will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Personal, Social and Health Education course, and in tutorials. Help and advice is also available through the School's medical practice and counselling service.

If a pupil is caught smoking (or in possession of smoking materials) the following will normally apply:

- (i) A first offence will be dealt with by the Housemaster or Housemistress: a detention, and possibly a gating in addition, may be imposed, together with a letter home to parents. However, a pupil caught smoking in a School building can expect to be punished as if this were at least a second offence, regardless of the previous record.
- (ii) A second offence will be dealt with by the Senior Deputy Head who may impose a lengthy detention and an extended period of gating; a letter will be sent home to parents.
- (iii) A third offence will be dealt with by the Headmaster, whose powers of sanction include all the foregoing and, in addition, suspension and expulsion.

The school does not condone the use or possession of e-cigarettes or similar smoking devices.