

DRUGS, ALCOHOL & SMOKING POLICY

Person responsible: Senior Deputy Head / Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Reviewed: November 2023

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 Life Matters (Personal, Social and Health Education) lessons but will be reinforced in other parts of the teaching curriculum and also informally in houses, in tutorial time or in assemblies, for example. The school periodically invites outside speakers to further reinforce its commitment to health education. Members of the teaching staff and Matrons/Pastoral Assistants (PCAs) are made aware of issues and policies by whole school INSET.

Individual Support

Individual support to pupils is available through Housemasters and Housemistresses, Matrons/PCAs, the Chaplaincy team, the School Health Centre staff and the School Psychotherapists and Counsellors. 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' or the misuse of prescribed medication or controlled drugs are 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.

The School's definition of drugs includes illegal drugs ie those categorised as Class A, B or C by the government. This includes Nitrous Oxide which from November 2023 is a Class C Drug, making it a criminal offence to be found in possession of the drug where its intended use is to be wrongfully inhaled 'to get high'. The School's definition also includes those

substances which are misused to create a so-called 'legal high'. These include alkyl nitrites ('poppers'), ketamine, khat, spice, volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour that can be inhaled), performance enhancing drugs, as well as prescribed medication or controlled drugs (unless authorised by a doctor), but this is not an exhaustive list.

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 Life Matters (Personal, Social and Health Education) syllabus and through specially invited external speakers.

The School does not permit the misuse of drugs, nor the use or presence of unauthorised drugs on site, or associated with any activity, anywhere, for which the School is responsible. Drug incidents will be dealt with fairly, with the well-being and health and safety of the whole school community being paramount as well as acknowledging the pastoral needs of individual students.

It is the policy of the King's School to discourage the use of illegal drugs or 'legal highs', whether at school or at home. Any cases discovered 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, in particular where they have acted as a source of supply.

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 if required 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 supply of an illegal drug, as it constitutes a criminal offence. Should the need arise the School reserves the right to use sniffer dogs.

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

ALCOHOL

(This is a pupil specific summary from the Alcohol Policy)

Pupils are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol. The effects of alcohol on health, and its social implications, will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Life Matters (Personal, Social and Health Education) course, and in tutorials. Help and advice is also available via the School's Health Centre and counselling services. 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 special school suppers and socials with members of staff), and in accordance with the Alcohol Policy, 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. No pupil is allowed to serve alcohol at any event, nor is alcohol to be freely available on tables. Those in the Sixth Form who attain 18 years may buy (for themselves only) limited amounts of beer and wine at the Pupils' Social Centre on specified occasions, under the supervision of authorised 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.

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 (HsM): 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. Where such an offence leads to the need for medical attention, or seriously disrupts other pupils or staff, a pupil can expect to be punished as if this were at least a second offence, regardless of their previous record.
- (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 the Head 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 Head 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 AND VAPING

Pupils are forbidden to smoke or vape. The effects on health of smoking and vaping will be taught and discussed as part of the curriculum, in the Life Matters (Personal, Social and Health Education) course, and in tutorials. Help and advice is also available through the School's Health Centre and counselling services.

If a pupil is caught smoking or vaping, or in the presence of pupils smoking or vaping, or in possession of smoking or vaping 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 or vaping in a School building can expect to be punished as if this were at least a second offence, regardless of the previous

record.

- (ii) Further offences will be dealt with by the Senior Deputy Head who may impose a lengthy detention and an extended period of gating and a letter will be sent home to parents; alternatively it may be decided to impose a period of suspension.
- (iii) Ultimately a pupil caught smoking or vaping on numerous occasions will be dealt with by the Head, whose powers of sanction include all the foregoing and, in addition, expulsion.

Policy Review

Changes made to this policy, June 2013

General formatting of document together with the following additions:

Drugs

Paragraph 1:

Insertion of the words “or so-called ‘legal highs’”.

Paragraph 2:

A new paragraph giving the definition of illegal drugs and legal highs.

Paragraph 3

Insertion of the words “or ‘legal highs’”.

Paragraph 5

Insertion of the words “whether illegal drugs or ‘legal highs’”.

Insertion of the words “a pupil may be questioned and their room and personal possessions searched.”

Insertion of the words “The school has the right to inform the police of the possession, consumption or supplying of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence.”

Alcohol

Point (i)

Replacement of the word “Headmaster” with “Senior Deputy Head”.

Changes made to this policy, June 2014

Smoking

Point (i)

Addition to paragraph regarding smoking within a school building being treated as a second offence.

Changes made to this policy June 2015

Drugs:

Slight rewording of the paragraph 3 to add in drugs paraphernalia

Addition to paragraph 4 about the implications of the refusal to take a test.

Alcohol:

Addition of the mention of breathalysers in houses

Addition of the statement at the end about parents and private functions

Smoking:

Addition of the final sentence with regard to e-cigarettes.

Changes made to this policy Sept 2016

Drugs:

Addition of “(including nitrous oxide and any performance enhancing drugs)”

Inclusion of reference to saliva as well as urine tests

Change made to this policy Feb 2018

Alcohol: Updating the alcohol section to take account of the Alcohol policy and the tighter regulation with regard to the provision of alcohol in licensed premises

Smoking: Adjusting the wording of punishments to reflect more accurately current practice

Drugs: Addition of “or misuse of prescribed medication or controlled drugs”

Change made to this policy April 2019

Smoking – wording on vaping strengthened.

Drugs – Addition of sentence with regard to possible use of sniffer dogs.

Change proposed to be made to this policy Jan 2020 and made Nov 2021

Drugs: Addition of: The school does not permit the misuse of drugs, nor the use or presence of unauthorised drugs on site or associated with any activity, anywhere, for which the school is responsible. Drug incidents will be dealt with fairly, with the well-being and health and safety of the whole school community being paramount as well as acknowledging the pastoral needs of individual students.

Changes made Sept 2022

Changes in roles sorted (Senior Deputy Head to Deputy Head (Pastoral); Headmaster to Head; Medical practice changed to Health Centre.

Need to look at smoking policy in the light of ASH guidance of Sept 2022

Changes made Sept 2023

Changes in roles sorted (Deputy Head (Pastoral) to Senior Deputy Head)

Vaping added to the Smoking policy throughout.

