



## **TOBACCO, VAPING, ALCOHOL AND RECREATIONAL DRUGS POLICY (PUPILS)**

### **Aims and Objectives:**

Duke of Kent School is committed to promoting the health and welfare of all pupils. The use by pupils of tobacco, electronic cigarettes (vaping), alcohol and recreational drugs wholly conflicts with this commitment and will not be allowed. It is essential to provide a thoughtful programme of education to set these rules in a context and to provide a framework for healthy living in adulthood.

The aims of this policy are:

1. To protect the health and welfare of pupils throughout the School
2. To help develop in our pupils moral courage to reject pressure to engage in potentially dangerous activities
3. To provide an environment in which all pupils and staff can work safely
4. To provide relevant and appropriate education and advice designed to support positive and healthy choices

### **Prevention**

1.1 Education is at the heart of the School's approach to preventing pupils from smoking, vaping, drinking or taking drugs. The formal programme of education begins from Year 6 and continues throughout the Senior School. Duke of Kent School works with a range of external professionals in order to present this detailed education. Occasional sessions are arranged for the education of parents in these areas.

1.2 Staff are provided with training as required in the areas of drug, alcohol, vaping and tobacco education.

1.3 This is a non-smoking site and all staff, parents, visitors and pupils must comply with the instruction not to smoke or use tobacco or electronic cigarettes on the premises. Staff should under no circumstances drink or take recreational drugs while undertaking the supervision of pupils.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions for Smoking/Vaping**

2.1 When a pupil is found smoking/vaping or in the company of smokers the School will act as follows:

First Offence:

- Parents of any pupil found to have been smoking/vaping or in the company of smokers will be telephoned immediately. A decision will be made at that point on whether the student(s) remain(s) at school for the day or not. Parents will be asked for their support in helping the pupil to end the practice.
- Medical advice will be provided regarding the risks of smoking and ways of giving up the habit, should a pupil have developed an addiction to nicotine.
- The wider context will be examined to see whether there are underlying causes to this behaviour which might respond to support or intervention

Second offence:

- Students can expect to be suspended if a second smoking/vaping offence is committed.
- Parents will be invited in to discuss the issue and the pupil will be offered the opportunity to take a smoking cessation course.
- Again, the behaviour will be examined in a wider context to identify and address any trigger factors behind the action.

Repetition:

3.1 At this stage, the sanction for any repetition of smoking/vaping or being caught with those who are smoking is likely to be permanent exclusion.

3.2 It should be noted that where there are additional factors the disciplinary process described above may be accelerated: e.g. smoking/vaping in the view or company of younger pupils, selling or buying cigarettes, damaging School property.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions for Pupils Using Alcohol**

4.1 Any pupil caught possessing, consuming or in the company of those consuming alcohol, or appearing to have consumed alcohol, on School premises should be brought to the Medical Room and a member of the Senior Leadership Team should be alerted. Parents will be contacted and asked to remove the pupil from the School premises. The School cannot take responsibility for the health or welfare of any pupil who has consumed alcohol. This removal from School will in most cases be classified as Suspension.

4.2 On return to School the next day the pupil, parents and a member of the Senior Leadership Team will discuss the incident, in its context, and the School will provide such advice and support as is necessary. The pupil will be warned that any repetition of this behaviour is likely to lead to permanent exclusion.

### **Disciplinary Sanctions for Pupils Using Drugs**

5.1 The possession, use and distribution of illegal or controlled substances is a very serious offence and is likely to end in the pupil being permanently excluded. Any pupil thought to be under the influence of drugs or having been caught with drugs in his or her possession or in the company of a person in either of these categories should be taken immediately to the Medical Room and should be accompanied until a member of the Senior Leadership Team arrives. The primary concern is for the welfare of the student. The reporting member of staff should complete a written record of the incident.

5.2 A search of belongings may take place according to the School's Search Policy. Parents will be contacted and may be asked to remove the pupil from the School premises. The School cannot take responsibility for the health or welfare of any pupil who has consumed illegal substances. This removal from School will in most cases be classified as Suspension. The Police may be contacted should the Head deem it necessary to do so.

5.3 The pupil and parents will be invited to return the next day when the matter can be discussed in detail. While in all matters the School reserves the right to operate discretion, it is important for pupils and parents to recognise that it is not possible to tolerate certain behaviours which jeopardise the safe running of the School and the likely outcome will be a permanent exclusion.

5.4 All medication required by any pupil must be handed to the Medical Room Supervisor or to the Office staff who will hand over the medication to the Medical Room.

If any pupil retains prescription drugs on his or her person the School may regard this as a breach of this policy.

5.5 'Legal highs' are not permitted in School, nor may pupils attend School under their influence.

**Summary**

The School takes extremely seriously its responsibility to educate its pupils in the complex areas of alcohol, smoking/vaping and drug use. These substances have no part in School life and Duke of Kent School will take systematic and stringent measures to ensure that these are not seen as culturally acceptable in our context.

Education and support will be provided where appropriate but the School has clearly stated its position on these matters and the most severe sanctions await any pupil who chooses to contravene the policy.

**Person Responsible: Deputy Head**

**Reviewed: November 2021**

**Next Review: September 2022**