



KING EDWARD VI HANDSWORTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

Drugs, Alcohol, Smoking, Vaping and Substances Policy 2021

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Related Documents/Policies

Reference	Title
	Behaviour for Learning Policy (2021)
	Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy (2021)
	PSHCE and RSE Policy (2021)

This policy has been created in line with the DfE document *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools: Advice for local authorities, headteachers, school staff and governing bodies. September 2012.*

[Summary of relevant laws](#) (including definitions)

Jane Glendenning, DSL is responsible for reviewing and updating this procedure.

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AIMS AND VALUES

This policy will help staff to achieve the vision of the School, which is that the Staff and Governors “are committed to the nurture and development of all those who learn here and seek to inspire all to be their best. We are a happy and caring school which values and takes pride in diversity and celebrates individuality.”

This policy aims to:

- Support our endeavour to maintain the safety and well-being of all students, staff and visitors;
- Clarify legal responsibilities, entitlements and obligations;
- Support all members of the School community by providing clear guidance and procedures on drug related issues to ensure clarity and consistency;
- Clarify the whole School approach to drug, alcohol, smoking and substance education in the context of the School curriculum.

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

This policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and the misuse of controlled drugs and other illegal substances and applies to all students at King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls irrespective of their age. The policy may also apply at times when a student is not in the care of the school. The procedures and sanctions may be adapted as appropriate to meet the policy aims and the circumstances of the case.

Pupils are forbidden to be under the influence of, or to have in their possession, any drugs, alcohol, tobacco or substances which can be misused at any time when they are under the jurisdiction of the school, including when a pupil is in or at school, representing the school or wearing school uniform; traveling to or from school; on school organised trips; or when the pupil is associated with the school at any time. We are a substance free school.

The UK is the largest consumer of illegal drugs in Europe and spends an estimated £400 million on the drug each year. The NHS spends £500 million a year treating drug addiction. We understand that over one million people in the UK are regular drug users and that 25% of them started before the age of 16. We will

therefore do all we can to educate young people about the information in this policy through interactions with students in school.

INCLUSIVE DEFINITION OF FORBIDDEN ITEMS IN SCHOOL

King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls defines a drug as a substance, which, when taken into the body, changes the way we feel, the way we perceive things, and the way our body works. This definition includes illegal substances and also legal substances such as alcohol, tobacco, e-Cigarette/vape, solvents, new psychoactive substances (so-called 'legal highs') and medicines (including "smart drugs").

Medicine

Addiction to prescription drugs is becoming a major problem in the UK. Last year British doctors prescribed opioid painkillers over 20 million times. The school has a policy/procedures for the administration of medicines that must be followed for everyone's safety. Our practice is in line with guidance from Birmingham City Council.

Smart drugs

The term is used to describe a collection of drugs known as "cognitive enhancers". Many of these drugs are usually prescribed for conditions such as ADHD and narcolepsy, but people without these conditions believe they still get a benefit from them, be it in the form of improved memory, motivation or executive function.

Alcohol

The school is an alcohol-free area. No one in school may possess or consume alcohol on the school premises.

Tobacco

The school is a smoke-free zone. Students, regardless of age, may not possess, use or sell tobacco or cigarettes within the extended boundaries of the school.

Vaping devices

The liquids vaporised are chemically unstable and form new chemicals that irritate the airways and may have other toxic effects. No one in school may possess or use vaping devices on the school premises.

ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND SPECIFIC PROCEDURES

Governors

As part of their general responsibilities for the strategic direction of the school, Governors have a key role to play in the development and regular review of King Edward VI Handsworth School for Girls policy on drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping and substances. Governors will be kept informed as to the effectiveness of present drug education provision and involved in any changes to existing provision/policy that may need to be made. Governors may take part as necessary in any appeals against exclusions related to illegal drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping and illegal substances incidents.

Headmistress

The Headmistress will ensure that staff and parents/carers are informed about this policy, and that the policy is implemented effectively. The Headmistress will also ensure that staff receive training, so that they can teach confidently and handle any difficult issues with sensitivity.

PSHCE Subject Leader

The PSHCE Subject Leader will liaise with external agencies, if necessary, regarding the School drug, alcohol, smoking, vaping and substances education programme. The PSHCE Subject Leader is also responsible for signposting training for non-specialist teachers and ensures that all adults who work with students are aware of the School policy and works within this framework. In designing and presenting our drugs, alcohol, smoking, vaping and substances education programme we will have regard to the diverse needs of our

multi-ethnic and multi-faith community and to any SEN students. The PSHCE Subject Leader welcomes feedback from our students and staff on the PSHCE programme.

The PSHCE Subject Leader may report to Governors, if requested, on the PSHCE drug, alcohol, smoking and substances education programme.

[All school staff](#)

[Parents/carers](#)

[Students](#)

Monitoring, evaluation and review

Governors, the Headmistress and the DSL will review this policy annually and assess its implementation and effectiveness. The policy will be promoted and implemented throughout the school.

The numbers of incidents will be reported to governors annually or provided to them at any time on request. Data (if applicable) will be analysed to reflect and re-design further strategies to improve procedures.