



Alcohol, Smoking, Vaping & Drugs (Pupils) Policy - Senior School (inc Boarders)

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Other related policies and documents:	Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Safeguarding Searching Pupils

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1. Introduction

Woodbridge School is committed to promoting a safe environment in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. It is important to deliver a clear, consistent, moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community and gives all our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances.

The educational, physical, mental, social and moral welfare of all pupils is the School's priority.

This policy is written with pupils of Senior School age in mind. No pupils in the Prep (including EYFS) are expected to, or permitted to, consume alcohol, smoke or take non-prescribed drugs in any circumstances.

2. Policy statement

This policy aims to:

- acknowledge and clarify the school's role in preventing the misuse of drugs and drug education and ensure it is appropriate to pupils' needs;
- provide information about procedures in response to drug-related incidents;
- provide guidance to teachers, support staff and governors;
- have clear procedures for responding to drug-related incidents and applying appropriate sanctions.

3. Policy

3a Definitions

"Drugs" means controlled drugs including cannabis, Temazepam, LSD, cocaine, Xanax, Valium, Ketamine, amphetamines, ecstasy and heroin and includes both illegal drugs and those that are legal when present in medicinal products of low strengths (and which may be obtained with or without a prescription); it also means alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, solvents, psychoactive substances ("legal highs" or "NPS"), volatile substances, vaping and other unauthorized substances unless otherwise specified.

"Involvement with drugs" includes possession, use, supplying and dealing with drugs or substances resembling drugs; or participating in a group, or being a member of a group that is using or possesses drugs, or substances resembling drugs.

"Substances" means all controlled drugs and, in the appropriate context, alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vaping), smoking paraphernalia, anabolic steroids, and every other substance that, when abused, may damage the health, safety and welfare of a pupil.

"Reasonable suspicion" means means grounds considered reasonable, as agreed by the Head or an authorised Deputy.

"Satisfied" means "more likely than not" in the opinion of the Head or an authorised Deputy.

3b Rules

Woodbridge School rules state that smoking (including e-cigarettes/vaping) is forbidden, either in School, or when pupils are recognisable as members of the School community. A smoker is defined for this purpose as anybody caught actually smoking/vaping; in the possession of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes and the like; smelling of smoke; or in the company of another pupil who is smoking.

Woodbridge School seeks by education and deterrence to prevent the use of illegal drugs and psychoactive substances by its children. A continuing programme of education about drugs will be maintained throughout the School. The programme will be delivered primarily through the School's PSHE programme and also in the course of PE, chemistry and biology lessons. Pupils and staff are also made aware of the information and advice available through the FRANK service (www.talktofrank.com/). This policy has been drawn up with reference to the guidance contained in DfE and APCO Drug advice for schools (2012).

The consumption of alcohol by pupils on School premises or at School events off premises is forbidden at Woodbridge School.

A pupil may be searched if they are suspected of breaking any of the rules around alcohol, smoking, vaping & drugs.

[Searching, screening and confiscation in schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

4. Procedure - Alcohol

Education

Issues surrounding alcohol consumption are raised in the PSHE programme in a manner appropriate to a pupil's age and understanding. This education programme seeks to enable pupils to make informed decisions by providing accurate and appropriate information and promoting better understanding of alcohol in a social context.

Alcohol Consumption On and Off School Premises

No students are permitted to bring alcohol onto School premises or to keep alcohol at School. This includes Boarders in School House.

The consumption of alcohol by pupils on School premises or at School events off premises is forbidden at Woodbridge School. The Leaver's Ball is the only exception to this.

Alcohol is forbidden to all pupils on School trips.

The School holds breathalyser equipment and may ask, but will not require, students of any age to submit to a test using this equipment if they suspect that alcohol may have been consumed against School Rules.

It will be considered a particularly serious offence for older students to supply younger students with alcohol or purchase alcohol for younger pupils or encourage younger pupils to drink alcohol. The Head reserves the right to impose punishments up to and including expulsion, even for a first offence, in line with punishments imposed on those taking or distributing illegal drugs.

Any alcohol confiscated will be destroyed.

Boarders on Town Leave

Boarders aged 18 or over may obtain permission to visit licensed premises on a Friday or Saturday night provided they:

- obey the Licensing Laws;
- carry correct ID which bears their photograph, name and date of birth and undertake to show this to any licensee on demand;
- never drink spirits
- do not consume more than two pints of beer / cider or two glasses of wine.
Specifically:
 - Non-premium strength lager/cider (approximately below 4.5%)
 - Medium glass of wine (175ml).

Boarders under the age of 18 may obtain permission to visit licensed restaurants, but they must never drink alcohol on licensed premises.

Instructions for Staff

The following regulations about serving alcohol are to be adhered to by employees of Woodbridge School. These are put in place in order to protect both the pupils and members of staff:

- No pupil is allowed to drink alcohol while at school or on a school trip.
- Pupils may not, regardless of age, purchase alcohol from off-licences or shops while attending school.
- Pupils may not bring alcohol into school under any circumstances.
- Unless at a formal function, members of staff must avoid drinking alcohol in front of pupils.
- Alcohol is forbidden to all pupils on School trips.

Trips Abroad

Alcohol is forbidden to all pupils on School trips, even if the rules overseas are more lenient. If pupils become intoxicated, then they are automatically in breach of the School Rules.

Notes for Members of Staff

If it is considered by a member of staff that a pupil has consumed too much alcohol, the Head/Deputy Head Pastoral must be informed immediately and, if necessary, medical assistance sought. If a member of staff has to deal with a pupil who is under the influence of alcohol, at no stage must that pupil be left unsupervised.

Disregarding these rules or allowing pupils to drink too much alcohol is a serious disciplinary matter. Offering spirits or allowing pupils to drink spirits is a very serious disciplinary matter.

Management of the Intoxicated Pupil

If an intoxicated pupil is unconscious:

- Maintain airway
- Call 999 if appropriate
- Do not attempt to move as it is unsafe for pupil and staff.

If able to walk, take to a safe place (Matron, if during the school day, or the School House matron or duty staff at any time if the pupil is a boarder).

If pupil turns up intoxicated and unaccompanied, ring the Head/Deputy Head Pastoral who will coordinate contact with parents, or house staff in the case of a boarder.

The expectation is that the pupil will remain under near-constant surveillance while intoxicated.

Provide a written account, including an account of any physical contact that has been necessary in dealing with the intoxicated pupil and give to the Deputy Head Pastoral; keep a copy also.

5. Procedure – Smoking (including ‘Vaping and associated paraphernalia’)

The possession, sharing and distribution of smoking and vaping items (including associated paraphernalia) is not allowed.

- The name of any pupil caught smoking/vaping should be immediately reported to the Deputy Head Pastoral for pupils in Years 7 to 11 or the Deputy Head Pastoral/Director of Sixth Form for those in the Sixth Form. The School does not recognise the defense that pupils were standing in the company of other smokers/vapers.
- Those who are found associating with smokers/vapers at the time of the offence,

- even though they may not have been smoking/vaping themselves, will normally
- receive the same sanction
- The following sanctions are usually given for smoking / vaping on site:
 - First offence: Disciplinary Meeting with the Head. Internal exclusion.
 - Repeat offence: Disciplinary Meeting with the Head. Single-day external exclusion plus, if appropriate, a session at the Medical Centre about the dangers of smoking/vaping and help with strategies for giving up.
- A subsequent infringement of the rules is likely to result in permanent exclusion.

6. Procedure - Drugs

Under criminal law it is an offence for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs or for the School to allow its premises to be used for those purposes. Any pupil discovered in term time or during the holidays, at School or elsewhere, and who is recognisable as a member of the School community, to be in possession of drugs, using drugs, passing drugs, under the influence of drugs or promoting the drugs culture such as on social media, may expect to be temporarily excluded and, in many cases, permanently. Every pupil should be aware that they can be recognisable as a member of the community even when off the School property and out of uniform, for instance, at a Saturday evening party or at a music festival.

If any pupil approaches a member of staff for help or advice over drugs, they shall do everything in their power to be sympathetic. Information about drugs will always be dealt with discreetly, and it is hoped members of the School community (parents and pupils) will see it as protecting others to pass on such information directly to the Head or to the Deputy Head Pastoral. Pupils can discuss their anxieties about drugs or substances in confidence, if they need to do so. At the same time, there is a duty to protect other pupils and the reputation of the School: confidentiality will not be provided to any pupil who discloses that they are taking illegal drugs.

Investigation

The School will investigate any rumour about involvement with illegal drugs or substances. The investigation may involve segregating a pupil for no longer than necessary; asking them questions; asking them to give a written account of particular circumstances; searching their personal belongings; taking possession of property for analysis; and/or asking the pupil to provide a urine sample under appropriate supervision (see below: Testing for illegal drugs). Investigations will be conducted fairly and in accordance with natural justice. The pupil will have reasonable access to a telephone, toilet, food and drink and will not be left unaccompanied for long periods of time. Interviews will normally be conducted by the Head or Deputy Head Pastoral in the presence of one of Assistant Head Pastoral, Head of House, Director of Sixth Form.,. Sources of information will not normally be disclosed. Parents will be kept informed so far as practicable.

Police involvement: In all cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police or the police liaison officer from the outset. The School may use its discretion to decide whether police involvement is appropriate.

The School will take temporary possession of a substance that is or is suspected to be an illegal drug to protect the pupil from harm and from committing the offence of possession.

This is permitted in law. School staff will not attempt to analyse or taste an unidentified substance. The substance will be handed over to the police as soon as reasonably practicable, who will be able to identify whether it is an illegal drug.

If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the School to investigate.

Searching: This will be in line with the School Policy and DfE: Searching, screening and confiscation: guidance for schools July 2022.

Testing for illegal drugs: If, the Head is satisfied that, more likely than not, there has been involvement in illegal drugs on or off School premises, the pupil may be asked to provide a biological sample (such as urine) under appropriate supervision (i.e. medical supervision with a member of the School staff present) at School premises or at an external laboratory.

Inferences may be drawn from a refusal of a test in these circumstances and may result in the pupil being required to leave the School community forthwith and/or the police being informed.

Notifying parents: Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a biological sample is taken, to notify a parent, or guardian of the requirement for a sample and the reasons for that requirement.

Discipline following misuse of drugs or substances

The School will consider each substance incident individually and will consider very carefully the implications of any actions taken. It will seek to balance the interest of the pupil involved with the interests of the other school members.

Appropriate counselling and support will be available to those pupils perceived to be at risk. If a child is felt to be at risk then the School's safeguarding procedure will be put into effect.

Where a pupil discloses to a member of staff that they are taking illegal drugs, the member of staff should make clear to the pupil that the information will be shared with the Head and/or Deputy Head Pastoral. Given the seriousness of substance misuse, the pupil will be pointed to sources of information and advice, and to services available to help those who are misusing substances.

Supply, etc: Those who sell drugs, possess them with intent to supply, distribute them, to encourage others to use them, whether on or off school premises are liable to permanently excluded.

Other Involvement: In every other case where the Head is satisfied that there has been involvement in drugs on or off School premises, or where a pupil has tested positively to drugs, the pupil will be liable to permanent exclusion, as the health and safety of other pupils is directly at risk. Alternative sanctions, depending on all the circumstances, including the pupil's degree of involvement and at the sole discretion of the Head after consultation with the Chairman of Governors may include a temporary exclusion.

Drug Testing: As an alternative to permanent exclusion in cases which do not involve supply or encouragement to others to use drugs, the Head in their sole discretion (after consultation with the Chairman of Governors) may permit the pupil to remain at School. With the agreement of the pupil and parents such permission may be made subject to a regime of testing without suspicion at intervals during the following two years. Both parents and pupils to whom the regime is offered would be required to sign consent forms describing the way in which the regime would operate. A pupil testing positive to drugs while on this regime would immediately be permanently excluded. All records of drug testing will not be used for any other purpose and will be destroyed when the pupil concerned leaves the School.

Review Procedure: A decision to exclude permanently or require a pupil to leave will be subject to appeal according to the School's procedure.

7. External Agencies

Annex B of the DfE/ACPO drug advice for schools provides a number of useful contacts for drug-related services that might assist pupils, including those below.

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: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents. Website: www.addaction.org.uk

8. Compliance and Monitoring arrangements

This policy will also be reviewed::

- following any serious incident involving pupils and drugs, smoking, vaping or alcohol
- following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE)
- and in any event, will be subject to a thorough review process including consideration at the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) meetings on an annual basis. This will ensure that practice across the Senior School (including boarders) is in line with this policy, the Complaints Procedure and with current guidance and legislation. .