



## King Edward's School – Alcohol, drugs and substances policy

Approved by SMT	
Approved by Governing Body	
Review date	

### Introduction

This policy has been authorised by the Governors and is available to parents and pupils on request. The policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and the misuse of controlled drugs and other substances and applies to all pupils at King Edward's School, Birmingham (School) irrespective of their age. The policy may also apply at times when a pupil 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 each case. Certain of the procedures can only be carried out during term time.

The school will give due regard to the DfE guidance document [DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools \(2012\)](#).

This policy should be read in conjunction with the King Edward's School Staff Code of Conduct, the Visits / Trips out of School policy and the Behaviour and Discipline policy.

*Alcohol:* means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.

*Drugs and substances:* means controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, substances intended to resemble drugs (psychoactive substances - legal highs) or legal drugs which can be obtained from a chemist, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.

### Aims

The aims of this policy are:

- To combine a balanced educational programme with strong disciplinary action against any pupils who misuse alcohol, drugs and substances
- To promote safety, welfare and good physical and mental health

### Education

We educate pupils to understand the effect and risks associated with alcohol in relation to their health and well-being and the law and that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live. We educate by means of PSHE classes, assemblies, with liaison with external agencies.

Aims of the education programme are:

- Improving the pupils' knowledge of the physical, psychological, social and legal implications of alcohol and drug taking
- Helping pupils to make informed decisions about alcohol and drugs

The effectiveness of the drugs education is reviewed annually by the Head of PSHE and the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

### **Pastoral care**

We encourage pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about use of alcohol or drugs and substance abuse with a member of staff or the School counsellor. Matters brought into counselling by a pupil or his parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be 'ring-fenced' from disciplinary sanctions, but a pupil who contravenes this policy will face disciplinary sanctions.

Schools have a key role in identifying pupils at risk of drug misuse. The School will aim to distinguish between those who require general information and education, and those who could benefit from more targeted prevention

### **School rules**

The rules forbid a pupil from:

- Any possession, use or supply of drugs and substances at any time
- Bringing alcohol onto School premises or being in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtaining or supplying alcohol to another, or being impaired by alcohol while on School premises or in the care of the School
- Bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

### **Detection**

Every complaint, report, or observation in relation to alcohol or involvement with drugs and substances will be followed up and investigated. A pupil suspected of such involvement may be suspended pending the outcome of an investigation.

### **Sanctions**

Any response to Alcohol, Drugs and Substance related incidents needs to balance the needs of the individual pupils concerned with those of the wider school community.

*Alcohol:* Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy. For a serious breach or persistent minor breaches, a pupil may be required to leave the School permanently.

*Drugs:* Anyone supplying drugs must expect to be expelled immediately even if he is about to sit public examinations. Anyone possessing or using drugs must also expect to be expelled.

If the Chief Master's decision after considering all the material evidence is that the pupil has consumed alcohol / been using drugs or substances (as applicable), the Chief Master will hear mitigating

circumstances and consider the pupil's academic and disciplinary record and the extent to which he has co-operated, before deciding on the sanction.

If the pupil is expelled or removed, he and his parents have the right to request a Review by the Governing Body of the decision in accordance with the School's Complaints Policy.

Drug use can be the symptom of other problems and a pupil will be referred to other services where required.

### **Staff Training**

Staff will be trained on how to recognise and manage issues involving alcohol, drugs and substances. For issues involving staff use of alcohol, drugs and substances, see the Staff Code of Conduct.

### **Parents**

Every parent should read and discuss the Alcohol, Drugs and Substances policy with their son. The School encourages open discussion between parents and their sons so they are aware of the issues and pressures in this area. The School will organise seminars relating to alcohol, drugs and substances which parents are encouraged to attend.

The School will be alert to issues with boys' family members misusing drugs. Where problems are observed or suspected, or a pupil chooses to disclose, this may become a safeguarding issue. The pupil's welfare and support needs will be considered closely.

If parents attending School premises appear to be under the influence of drugs or substances or alcohol, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and SMT. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the DSL and the SMT who may telephone the police. If the DSL reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's safeguarding procedures will be followed.

### **Searches for alcohol, drugs and substances**

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. The search of a pupil of their possessions will be carried out in the presence of another member of staff. Parents will be informed of the search as soon as is reasonably practicable. See the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy for detail on the School's policy on searching and confiscation.

**Searches with consent:** School staff can search pupils for alcohol, drugs or substances with their consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving his consent.

**Searches without consent:** The Chief Master and staff authorised by the Chief Master may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions without their consent where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has alcohol or drugs or substances in their possession. .

**Confiscation:** On confiscating alcohol, drugs or substances, staff should immediately pass the item to the SMT. The Chief Master will determine how the item will be dealt with, in accordance with the

guidelines in the School's policy on searching and confiscation in the School's Behaviour and Discipline policy. If staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug.

**Police involvement:** If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. 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 methods.

## **Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed annually and:

- Following any serious incident involving alcohol or drugs and substances
- Following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education (DfE)

The review will be carried out by the Deputy Head (Pastoral), who will also evaluate the effectiveness of education on these matters in the School. A report will be made to the Governors who will authorise any necessary amendments.

## **Support from external agencies**

- 'Talk to Frank' - 24 hour confidential telephone advice about drugs is offered by the National Drugs Helpline - 0800 776600 [www.talktofrank.com/](http://www.talktofrank.com/)
- Drinkaware - charity promoting responsible drinking and reducing alcohol misuse – [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk)
- Open Door Youth Counselling - confidential counselling and support for young people on all matters - 0121 454 1116 [www.opendooryouthcounselling.org.uk/](http://www.opendooryouthcounselling.org.uk/)