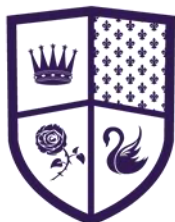


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KENSINGTON  
PARK SCHOOL

# Illegal Substances, Smoking & Alcohol Policy

This contains three separate sections:

- Illegal Substance, Drugs and Substance Abuse
- Smoking (including Vaping)
- Alcohol

# ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

To increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of the use and misuse of these substances, and the law.

This Policy is governed by the following:

- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 “ it is an offence to possess a controlled substance unlawfully, possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it, to supply a controlled substance unlawfully, to allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for the process of drug-taking. Trafficking (supply) attracts the more serious of punishments, including life imprisonment for Class A offences.
- [DfE and ACPO Drug Advice For Schools](#), September 2012 (Advice for local authorities, head teachers, school staff and governing bodies)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2024)

# ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES, DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

## **1. PURPOSE**

- Educate students, staff, parents, governors, and safeguard the welfare of individuals and that of the School community
- To increase understanding of the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse, and the law.
- To widen understanding about related health and social issues – e.g. sex and sexuality, crime, HIV and Aids.
- To help develop the moral courage to reject peer group pressures which may lead to experimentation with, and lead to the use of illegal substances.
- To provide students with accurate information about drugs and other harmful substances and make them aware of consequences of substance misuse.
- To enable students to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing coping strategies.
- Deter students from drug and substance abuse
- To actively discourage the use of illegal drugs and to treat cases of drug usage by students as serious misconduct which will be investigated, and, may lead to permanent exclusion.
- Provide procedures for any incident or person involved or suspected of being involved in drug or substance abuse.

## **2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The law places drugs in three categories, Class A, B and C; these are known as 'controlled substances'. Class A drugs are considered to be the most harmful, and Class C the least harmful. Under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 it is an offence to possess a controlled substance unlawfully, possess a controlled substance with intent to supply it, to supply a controlled substance unlawfully, to allow premises you occupy or manage to be used for the process of drug-taking. Trafficking (supply) attracts the more serious of punishments, including life imprisonment for Class A offences.

The School will follow the guidance given by the Metropolitan Police which is intended to offer support and information to all staff working with children and young adults in educational settings across London. It advises when an incident can be dealt with in school, when to involve parents and when to involve the police.

### **3. RATIONALE / ISSUES**

Involvement with drugs can be damaging to health, even life-threatening, and the School wishes, with the help of parents, to deter students from becoming involved in any aspect of substance abuse.

### **4. EDUCATION**

Through the curriculum and visits by outside speakers students will be informed about drugs and given an opportunity to debate the issues concerning their use and abuse. Drugs education is included in the PSHE programme in the form of lectures or talks for students. We aim to keep staff up-to-date by means of both internal and external INSET. These issues will also be discussed by sports staff, with particular reference to performance enhancing drugs and protein supplements.

### **5. SCHOOL RULES**

Drugs may not be brought to, sold, passed on or obtained on the school premises, on school outings or trips or while pupils are recognisable as members of Kensington Park School, or at any time by students within the Boarding House.

The use or possession of any drugs or other illicit substances, or related paraphernalia, is strictly forbidden to all Kensington Park School students.

The School is aware that some substances which are not illegal may have an intoxicating, and/or stimulating and/or hallucinating effect. The use of animal, mineral or vegetable products which have such an effect is against School rules and students using such substances may be dealt with in a similar fashion to those who use illegal substances.

Whilst this policy specifically deals with drugs as defined in the "Misuse of Drugs Act 1971" such as heroin, cocaine, amphetamine sulphate, MDMA, cannabis etc, its principles also apply to any substance misuse including legally prescribed medication that is being used for purposes other than intended such as anti-depressants, steroids and benzodiazepines; volatile substances (those giving off a vapour or gas that can be inhaled); substances such as magic mushrooms that contain psilocybin, a natural hallucinogen; ketamine, and amyl nitrites (poppers), tablets marketed as "legal highs", other substances such as nitrous oxide, glue and solvents if they are being used as items of abuse. The School's definition of drugs therefore includes those substances which are mis-used to create a so-called 'legal highs'. The substances highlighted in this policy are illustrative and indicative of the types of substances which are included within this policy – it should be noted that is not an exhaustive list. In addition, performance enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, fall within the scope of this policy.

## **6. PASTORAL CONCERNS**

Any member of staff who has concerns over the welfare of a student which he/she considers could possibly come from involvement with illegal drugs should speak in person with the Head of Senior School or Head of Sixth Form. If appropriate these concerns will be shared with the parent/guardian in order to consider the pastoral welfare of the individual.

## **7. DRUGS TESTING**

Any student may be asked to undergo a drug test (at their parents' expense) where suspicion is based on one or a combination of the following:

- changes in behaviour, erratic behaviour, health or attendance, significant alteration in academic performance
- involvement in a drug incident
- implication by association and peer group associations
- physical signs
- information received

Where there are concerns of substance abuse, a student may be asked to submit a saliva sample for a drug screening test. A positive result may be the first step to helping a student face up to difficulties they may be having and accessing necessary support.

Prior to a drug screening test being administered the student will be asked to sign a consent form. The relevant consent to a drug test is that of the student rather than the parents if the student is over 16 years of age, unless the student is deemed not to have sufficient capacity to consent. If the student is under 16 years of age, their consent will be sought providing they are of sufficient maturity and understanding, as determined by the member of staff administering the test. In the event that a student is not deemed to be of sufficient maturity and understanding to provide informed consent, their parent or guardian's consent will be sought.

The Head of Boarding or relevant member of the Senior Leadership Team will make every reasonable effort to contact the student's parent/guardian prior to the saliva sample being taken. This will not apply in the case that the parent has already been informed that the pupil has been put onto a testing programme, in which case it is not necessary to inform the parent before each individual test.

If a student, or their parent on their behalf, refuses to provide a saliva sample they will be asked to say why they have refused, and staff will be entitled to draw inferences from their response and general demeanour. Refusal to take a drug test will suggest that the outcome is likely to be positive and will bring the student's continued place at Kensington Park School into question.

Testing procedures will be in accordance with good practice and care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the sample provided is genuine and uncontaminated. The saliva sample will be taken under the authorisation of a member of the School's Senior Leadership Team, and where possible a senior member of staff will be present for the test. The saliva sample will be taken under the supervision of a minimum of two members of staff. All due care will be taken to respect the pupil's privacy and dignity.

In the event that drugs test is administered the Chair of KPS Advisory Board will also be notified.

## **8. SUPPORT**

Insight KC: is a free borough support service that offers support to young people living in Kensington & Chelsea with or affected by drug or alcohol issues. Other support can be accessed through the Bi-borough LSCB.

Ongoing concerns will have a supportive regime put in place which may also include both routine drug testing and testing where staff have a reason to believe a pupil has taken drugs/illicit substances.

## **9. SANCTIONS**

The School regards the acquiring, purchasing, possession, distribution, sale or use of drugs or substances highlighted within this policy, on or off campus as extremely serious offences.

Our response to an admission, positive test result, or other evidence of a student's involvement with drugs will vary according to circumstances.

Involvement with drugs is likely to result at least in temporary exclusion and selling drugs will, almost certainly, result in permanent exclusion.

Concern about the possibility of a pupil using drugs outside school hours will normally be shared with parents.

Where pupils are identified to have an ongoing dependency relating to drugs or illicit substance support systems will be put in place via the safeguarding team and external aid sought.

Students will be given the opportunity to choose not to have a test and to make an admission.

The police will normally be involved only when criminal events or issues are suspected.

## **10. LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES**

- Alcohol Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Screening, Searching and Confiscation Policy
- Smoking Policy

## **11. USEFUL CONTACTS AND INFORMATION**

- Frank – Drugs Helpline 0800 77 66 00 or Text 82111 or [www.talktofrank.com](http://www.talktofrank.com)
- Drugs and the Law <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/drugs/drug-law/>

## **12. IMPLEMENTATION/ DISSEMINATION**

All members of the staff, and the students themselves, share a responsibility for the implementation of the School's discipline policy. The policy is made clear to students through the School rules and is published on the School website and in the Information Handbook for new students and their parents. Further copies are available to parents or students on request.

## **13. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Heads of Senior School and Sixth Form hold a central record of incidents to identify any patterns or specific areas of concern. Incidents are reported to the KPS Advisory Board termly as part of our regular review of safeguarding.

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed annually. We will include students in the review (school council) and ensure that questions about how safe they feel are included in surveys we undertake. The policy is applied in conjunction with the School's Achievement, Behaviour, Awards and Sanctions Policy

## **14. OTHER USEFUL DOCUMENTS**

1. [Keeping children safe in education 2024](#)
2. [DfE and ACPO Drug Advice For Schools, September 2012](#) (Advice for local authorities, head teachers, school staff and governing bodies)
3. [Searching, Screening and Confiscation](#) February 2014 (Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies, February 2014)

# Smoking (including Vaping)



# SMOKING

## 1. PURPOSE:

Given the overwhelming evidence that smoking and vaping is a serious health risk, the School has an obligation to discourage pupils from this habit. The purpose of this policy is to make students aware of the dangers of smoking and vaping, both to themselves and to others and outline the School's response to any incidents.

## 2. OVERVIEW

The School has a site-wide No Smoking policy including e-cigarettes and vaping. This includes within three metres of School or Boarding premises. Staff are not allowed to smoke on the premises. Parents who attend school functions, or who watch school sports matches, are asked to abide by this policy. The School Health Education programme informs pupils of the dangers of smoking.

Smoking in public buildings in England is illegal and carries a heavy fine. It is also an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18.

For the purposes of this policy the term smoking includes vaping or other similar types of activity; when referring to tobacco products and/or associated paraphernalia this includes vaping and other similar activities.

- The School Rules state that smoking is not permitted at any time and the KPS has a campus-wide 'No Smoking' policy. Students who are caught smoking or who are found to be in possession of tobacco products and/or associated paraphernalia, including E-Cigarettes, vapes and vaping material, will be dealt with through the School's disciplinary system.
- Smoking or vaping inside any School building will be regarded as a serious disciplinary offence as it poses both a fire risk and a health risk to others. This is regarded as a serious offence and will be sanctioned accordingly.
- Any student found smoking cigarettes, or vaping, inside a building is likely to be excluded from the School as this puts others at risk of serious harm.
- The School operates a 'No Smoking' policy and students are recruited on this basis. However it is understood that due to the nature of nicotine addiction, people who have quit may relapse. If this happens students should seek support to quit again at the earliest opportunity and remain smoke-free at all times on the School

campus as smoking is strictly forbidden and appropriate action will be taken against any student who chooses to break this rule.

- A confidential and supportive smoking cessation service can be accessed via the pastoral care system.
- Parents, guests and visitors to the site should be informed that a School-wide 'No Smoking' policy exists and they are required to abide by this directive. Any person contravening this directive will be required to leave the site and will be denied further access.

#### Electronic Cigarettes (E-Cigarettes or E-Cigs) and vapes:

- Students are not allowed to bring E- Cigarettes or vapes into School. We are concerned that E- Cigarettes and vaping may encourage young people to start smoking, particularly because of their novelty value and the common assumption that they are safe.
- Young people who start to use E- Cigarettes or vapes could easily become addicted to nicotine and could progress to smoking cigarettes as well as, or instead of, E- Cigarettes or vapes. Sanctions will be applied to any student who is found to be in possession of, or using, E- Cigarettes or vapes.

### **3. SANCTIONS**

Appropriate action will be taken for any pupil found to be:

- Smoking, including the use of e-cigarettes or vapes
- Suspected of smoking or using e-cigarettes or vapes
- Found in possession of tobacco, smoking or vaping paraphernalia
- Found to be storing tobacco or other smoking or vaping paraphernalia within the boarding house
- Found to be supplying such products to other pupils

Serious or persistent offences may result in temporary or permanent exclusion from boarding or school.

### **4. IMPLEMENTATION/DISSEMINATION:**

All members of the staff, and the students themselves, share a responsibility for the implementation of the School's discipline policy. Kensington Park School will ensure that students are aware of this policy through PSHE and tutor time. Parents/guardians can access this policy via the school website. Further copies

are available to parents or students on request.

## **5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The Heads of Senior School and Sixth Form hold a central record of incidents to identify any patterns or specific areas of concern. Incidents are discussed with the KPS Advisory Board termly as part of our regular review of safeguarding.

The policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed annually. We will include students in the review (school council) and ensure that questions about how safe they feel are included in surveys we undertake. The policy is applied in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy.

# Alcohol

This Policy is governed by the following:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2021)
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy or attempt to buy alcohol, whether in a supermarket, pub or off-licence. It is also illegal to supply someone under the age of 18 with alcohol. Anyone who buys or attempts to buy alcohol for consumption in a bar by a person under the age of 18 is liable to a maximum fine of £1,000.
- Children under the age of 16 may not go into a pub or bar unless accompanied by an adult. 16 or 17 year old children are allowed to consume beer, wine or cider with a table meal, when accompanied by an adult. The Police have the power to confiscate alcohol from anyone they know to be, or reasonably believe to be, under the age of 18.

# ALCOHOL

## 1. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is:

- To encourage students to adopt a responsible and educated attitude towards alcohol;
- To make students aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse, both to themselves and to others;
- To encourage a tolerance towards cultural/religious differences in attitudes towards alcohol;
- To conform to legal restrictions regarding the purchase of alcohol by or for young persons.

## 2. OVERVIEW

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to buy or attempt to buy alcohol, whether in a supermarket, pub or off-licence. It is also illegal to supply someone under the age of 18 with alcohol.

The purchase of alcohol by students in off-licences or stores is forbidden and students are not permitted bring alcohol onto the School premises. The consumption, possession, sale or other involvement with alcohol by students is forbidden unless it is specifically provided and approved by a designated member of staff. Public houses and bars are out of bounds to all students.

Students should not normally consume alcohol, enter licensed premises, nor bring alcoholic drinks into the School or Boarding House. There are, however, occasions when senior pupils are permitted to drink alcohol, under staff supervision, having sought prior permission from their parent / guardian on an individual basis. Such events would normally involve Sixth Form students. Wine and beer may be served at dinners and receptions at the discretion of the Headmaster.

The principles applying to school trips and expeditions are clearly explained to parents in the letter that gives details of the activity, or at a parents' meeting relating to the trip. If parents are in any doubt, they should contact the member of staff responsible for the trip.

## 3. SANCTIONS

Appropriate sanctions will be applied to any student, irrespective of age, found to be consuming alcohol, be in possession of alcohol, or be under the influence of alcohol whilst on school or boarding premises. Alcohol must not be stored anywhere in the Boarding House. Any student found to be supplying alcohol to other students will also be subject to disciplinary measures.

Serious or persistent offences may result in temporary or permanent exclusion from boarding or school.

Where students are identified to have an ongoing dependency relating to alcohol then support systems will be put in place and external aid sought.

#### **4. IMPLEMENTATION/DISSEMINATION:**

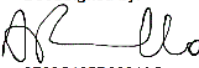
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#### **5. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

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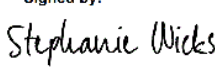
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Headmaster

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09 October 2024

KPS Advisory  
Chair

Signed by:  
  
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30 October 2024