



## St Dunstan's College

# DRUGS, ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

This policy and procedure applies to employees of St Dunstan's Trustee Limited on behalf of St Dunstan's Education Foundation & College Hire Limited.

### AIMS

With respect to drugs, alcohol and smoking, St Dunstan's College aims:

- To enable pupils to make healthy, well-informed choices by increasing knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising decision-making skills.
- To provide accurate information about drugs, alcohol, tobacco and substance use.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of their use and misuse.
- To widen the pupils' understanding about related health and social issues.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support.

This guidance is supported by the College Safeguarding Policy (P1) and the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy (P3).

### EDUCATION

These aims are fulfilled by a programme of health education, which is appropriate to the pupils' age and level of development. This programme will be delivered mainly through PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)/Skills for Life lessons but will be reinforced in other parts of the teaching curriculum and informally in assemblies and through tutor/form time. The College periodically invites outside speakers to further reinforce its commitment to health education. Members of the teaching staff are made aware of issues and policies by whole school INSET.

### INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT

Individual support to pupils is available through the pastoral teams, College counsellors, the College Nurse and the College Chaplain. Pupils may also be referred to private specialist clinics with parental permission.

### TOBACCO AND VAPING

Reviewed – Lent 2024

Next review – Lent 2025

The College rule states: Smoking, vaping and the possession of smoking or vaping materials, including vapes and shisha pens, are forbidden, regardless of the nicotine content. Pupils should not return to College having clearly smoked elsewhere. These are Serious Offences and will incur sanctions as outlined in the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy (P3).

All smoking and/or vaping incidents are reported to parents, who will be informed at the earliest opportunity. All offences will also be reported to the Deputy Head Pastoral and/or the Head. Smoking or vaping materials, if found, will be confiscated and returned to parents.

### **Tobacco and Vaping Sanctions**

Note: the age of the pupil will be considered when sanctions are determined. Sanctions are issued at the professional discretion of the Deputy Head Pastoral and/or the Head.

- i. The first offence will attract a minimum of a Saturday Detention and may require the writing out of an appropriate report which considers the damage to health caused by smoking/vaping.
- ii. A second offence will likely result in either internal or external temporary exclusion and/or gating.
- iii. Offences thereafter will result in a meeting between the Deputy Head Pastoral, the student and their parents to establish a non-smoking/vaping agreement with significant sanctions if broken.
- iv. Continued abuse of the smoking/vaping rule may well result in further temporary or possibly permanent exclusion, as outlined in the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy (P3).

The College will always contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling tobacco or tobacco products to underage pupils and the Police may also be informed.

Members of staff (academic and non-academic) are reminded that smoking is banned across the site both inside and outside buildings. Staff are not permitted to smoke in the presence of pupils at any time.

### **ALCOHOL**

Beer and wine may be consumed only at authorised College occasions and only by Sixth Form students over 16, under supervision, and alongside a minimum of a light meal or snacks. Alcoholic drinks may not be brought onto the College premises or to College events/trips held off-site. Drinking to excess under any circumstances is unacceptable. Pupils should not arrive at the College clearly having consumed alcohol elsewhere. These are Serious Offences and will incur sanctions as outlined in the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy (P3).

The College is clearly bound by law, and those laws guide the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy and related documents. Pupils are encouraged to adopt a sensible attitude towards alcohol. Alcohol should not be served to any pupils below the Sixth Form. Only those Sixth Form pupils who are old enough may drink beer or wine – and then only in moderation. No spirits of any kind, or drinks containing spirits, may be consumed.

The College believes that pupils in the Sixth Form should learn that the moderate consumption of alcohol has its place in British society. Therefore, Sixth Form pupils may be served alcohol in moderation at certain formal College occasions, usually accompanying a meal (e.g. College social events and formal Dinners) but never in the absence of a member of

staff. Soft drinks are always available at such events. Parents will be informed if alcohol is to be available at any function. Further details on the availability of alcohol at College events can be found in *College Alcohol Policy*.

All alcohol offences will be reported to the Deputy Head Pastoral and/or the Head and to parents. Evidence of alcohol consumption will attract an appropriate sanction.

### **Alcohol Sanctions**

Note: the age of the pupil will be considered when sanctions are determined. Sanctions are issued at the professional discretion of the Deputy Head Pastoral and/or the Head.

- i. The first offence will attract a minimum of a Saturday Detention and may require the writing out of an appropriate report which considers the damage to health caused by alcohol.
- ii. A second offence will likely result in either internal or external temporary exclusion and/or gating.
- iii. Offences thereafter will result in a meeting between the Deputy Head Pastoral, the student and their parents to establish an alcohol agreement with significant sanctions if broken.
- iv. Continued abuse of the alcohol rule may well result in further temporary or possibly permanent exclusion, as outlined in the Expected Pupil Behaviour Policy (P3).
- v. A pupil may be referred for counselling (at the parents' expense) where there is reason to believe that they have issues with alcohol.
- vi. Offences involving spirits will attract a greater disciplinary reaction. Persuading other pupils to partake of spirits is regarded in a particularly serious light. Should a pupil be incapacitated, end up sick or requiring medical attention, then it is likely that a period of exclusion would follow.
- vii. A pupil found to be providing alcohol to an underage pupil risks exclusion and may be reported to the Police.
- viii. For alcohol offences, the College reserves the right to contact parents and ask them to collect their child immediately.
- ix. In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to underage pupils, the College will contact the manager of the establishment involved and the Police will be informed.

### **DRUGS**

The College rule states: Taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden.

The College's definition of 'drugs' includes illegal drugs (those categorised as Class A, B or C) and those substances which are misused to create what was formerly called a 'legal high', but which are now branded 'new psychoactive substances' and have been made illegal with the May 2016 ban on 'legal highs'. These include nitrous oxide, alkyl nitrates ('poppers'), ketamine, khat, solvents and other volatile substances (those giving off a gas or vapour that can be inhaled), prescribed medication as well as over-the-counter drugs, but this 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 guidance.

Pupils are taught about the use and misuse of drugs through a programme of education arranged through the established curriculum, the PSHEE curriculum and through specially invited external speakers.

St Dunstan's College is committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. All College staff have been trained in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse. Any member of staff or parent concerned that a pupil might be involved in drug abuse should inform the pupil's Form Tutor, Head of Year, Deputy Head Pastoral or Head immediately.

The Deputy Head Pastoral will always investigate rumours about involvements in illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching a pupil and/or his/her personal possessions (in line with *P3RD010 College Search and Confiscation Procedures*). Parents are informed as a matter of urgency and invited into the College to discuss the matter.

### **Drugs Testing**

The College has a right to require a pupil to undergo a test for the use of illegal drugs or other substances damaging to health, where there are reasonable grounds for suspicion. Drugs testing is organised by the Deputy Head Pastoral in conjunction with an outside testing agency. Full details are available to parents on request. A test will only be required following consultation between the Deputy Head Pastoral and the Head. Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a drugs test is conducted, to notify a parent of the requirement for a drugs test and the reasons for that requirement. Refusal to submit to a drugs test at the request of the College may result in exclusion.

Drugs testing is designed to be constructive and to support those pupils most at risk of drug taking, to dispel ill-founded suspicion of drug taking and to act as a general deterrent.

### **Drugs Sanctions**

The drugs sanction guidance allows the College to exercise clemency where it is merited and give support and advice to those who need it. It aims to encourage honesty and in certain circumstances to allow a pupil to recognise that he or she has made a grave mistake and to strive to make amends.

- i. Any pupil selling or distributing drugs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption by others will receive a temporary or permanent exclusion.
- ii. Any pupil possessing or consuming illegal drugs whilst under the College's jurisdiction or whilst representing the College should expect to receive temporary or permanent exclusion.

- a. In some cases, there may be mitigating circumstances; if so, these will be carefully considered by the Deputy Head Pastoral and the Head before issuing any sanctions.
- b. The Police will normally be consulted about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, given possibility of it being a criminal offence.
- iii. If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with illegal drugs is a positive drugs test, they may be allowed to stay in the College provided that they:
  - a. Give a written assurance to the Head and to their parents that they will not become involved with illegal drugs again.
  - b. Agrees to undergo the drugs tests at various times during their remaining College career.
  - c. Agrees to take part in drugs counselling if the College requires.

The same undertakings will also be required of any pupil who may be allowed back after an offence (see ii above) because of mitigating circumstances.

- iv. If the College is made aware of the possibility of drugs misuse or any possible criminal activity, even if the activity or drugs misuse takes place outside of the jurisdiction of the College, the Deputy Head Pastoral or Head may:
  - a. Inform parents of the nature of the information.
  - b. Ask that there should be drug counselling.
  - c. Require that the pupil be drugs tested in the future.
  - d. Talk to the Police about the matter.
- v. In the event of the College's reputation being brought into disrepute it will be the College's qualified right to invoke its full disciplinary procedures, which may include permanent exclusion.
- vi. Any subsequent drugs abuse, including a positive test result, will result in permanent exclusion. Semantic debate about drugs taken in the holidays or at weekends will not be conducted.