GIGGLESWICK
SCHOOL

Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Abuse Policy

Lead Author(s)	Second Master, AH(P)
Reviewed by	Headmaster
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1 INTRODUCTION

This policy:
Should be read in conjunction with the Behaviour Rewards and Sanctions, Safeguarding, Searches and Confiscation and Provision of Medical Care policies and implements ISSR Part 3 and KCSIE 2025.
Support NMS on promoting health and wellbeing in boarding.
Takes into account the following guidance:
• DfE and ACPO drug advice for Schools (2012)
• Screening, Searching and Confiscation: Advice for headteachers, school staff and governing bodies (DfE, September 2022)

Giggleswick School ("the School") is aware of the threats and dangers posed by the easy availability of alcohol, smoking paraphernalia and drugs (including illegal substances and legal highs) in both the immediate and local area. Of equal concern is the impact and effect of socially acceptable drugs such as tobacco, vaping and alcohol on its pupils.

The School is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles. This is specifically taught within the PSHE curriculum, but it is also encouraged by the many sports and activities the pupils are encouraged to take part in.

Any concern regarding the abuse of alcohol or other substances, such as cigarettes (including e-cigarettes) and drugs are raised with the DSL or Second Master who assess the need for early help. Disciplinary and supportive actions are considered in parallel.

For the purposes of this policy, being under the School's authority means:

- throughout the School day, whether on or off the premises;
- whenever involved in any activity organised by the School;
- whenever identifiable as a member of the School; or
- for a boarder, whenever a pupil is under the direct responsibility of their Senior House Staff.

2 ALCOHOL

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

The School aims to:

- develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body;
- encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour; and
- practise personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present.

The PSHE programme and Biology lessons emphasise the dangers of alcohol abuse and the Wellbeing Centre can provide a confidential service for any pupils who wish to learn more.

Pupils in the Sixth Form are members of the Sixth Form Centre which provides an opportunity to learn how to drink sensibly in a social situation. Pupils in the Lower Sixth are restricted to 2 drinks during the course of a Saturday evening (Upper Sixth may have a maximum of 3 drinks) and the beer/wine on offer is carefully selected. Pupils who have attended a school event on a Saturday evening will not be permitted to purchase alcoholic drinks in the Dutton Centre afterwards.

Wine will be served at some school events (e.g. House Dinners, CCF Dinner and Sixth Form Dinner) where it is deemed appropriate. These are occasions at which pupils have another opportunity to enjoy wine with a meal in the company of adult members of staff. It is the School's policy that, where wine is being offered at a meal, bottled water should also be on the table and suitable non-alcoholic alternatives be available.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:

- in school buildings or grounds (except specified formal occasions)
- when under the authority of the School, in public houses and other licensed premises and whenever prohibited by law
- whilst on school outings and trips (except specified formal occasions sanctioned by the Group Leader and agreed with the SLT prior to departure)

Drunkenness, particularly which involves adult supervision in its aftermath, will be treated very seriously and will generally incur a sanction at the highest level.

Pupils found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the authority of the School, can expect to be suspended. Offences involving spirits or the supply/selling of alcohol to another pupil will be in seen as a serious breach of school rules and be sanctioned accordingly.

3 SMOKING/VAPING

3.1 TOBACCO

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The School's policy on smoking aims to give pupils the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society, and that it receives support from the School and staff. Legislation has made it an offence for children under 18 years to be sold tobacco products. The School campus is a no smoking site.

The School aims to:

- ensure that cigarette smoking is not tolerated at the School
- educate pupils as to the immediate dangers of smoking
- encourage those pupils who do smoke to break free from the habit

Smoking, or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco, is prohibited when a pupil is under School rules. This includes journeys to and from School and school trips. Pupils found smoking or in possession of cigarettes or tobacco can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate sanction administered. Pupils found to be smoking within a school building will be sanctioned at a higher level, owing to the level of risk involved not only to school property but to others in that building. Subsequent offences may result in suspension. For a persistent offender the Headmaster reserves the right to suspend or permanently exclude.

The School can offer counselling and support for those few pupils who are addicted to smoking. Pupils are encouraged to meet with the Wellbeing Centre staff to discuss smoking cessation plans.

3.2 VAPING AND E-CIGARETTES

The proliferation of vaping among teenagers is a concern and the School treats possession and consumption of e-cigarettes/vapes in the same way it does tobacco products. If a pupil is suspected of possessing a vape or paraphernalia, the Second Master will instruct a search in accordance with the Searches and Confiscation policy and if found, the illegal substance will be confiscated.

The possession of a vaping device or vaping paraphernalia (juice refills, chargers, etc.) is prohibited under School Rules as it is an offence. This includes journeys to and from School and school trips. Pupils found vaping or in possession of vaping equipment can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate sanction administered. Subsequent offences may result in suspension. For a persistent offender the Headmaster reserves the right to suspend or permanently exclude.

Any pupil supplying or selling tobacco products or vaping equipment to another pupil will be in serious breach of School Rules and be sanctioned accordingly.

Due to the ease with which vaping equipment can result in harmful addictions or potentially be used to access unauthorised substances (e.g. THC-based vapes), pupils found to have been vaping may be asked to undertake a drugs test (please see Drugs & Drug Testing). Pupils in possession of a THC-based vaping device (Tetrahydrocannabinol, the principal psychoactive constituent of cannabis) or shown to have used one whilst under the authority of the School will be treated as in possession of an illegal substance and sanctioned accordingly. Under UK Law, vape devices containing THC are treated as a Class B drug.

4 DRUGS

Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication.

The School aims to:

- ensure the School is free from illegal drugs and solvents;
- educate pupils on the effects of drugs and solvents on the mind and body;
- provide opportunities for pupils to practise the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs;
- promote the individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth;
- explain the legal situation with regard to the use and misuse of drugs;
- enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support; and
- enable parents to acquire knowledge and support.

Teachers and Pastoral staff are encouraged to be alert to the signs which may indicate drug misuse and they are required to be aware of the procedures to be followed in the event of discovering drug misuse or substances known or thought to be illicit.

Where drugs are concerned, it is particularly important that parents and school stand shoulder-to-shoulder. The School is dependent upon (and grateful for) any reinforcement of the School's stance on drugs which parents are able to give.

4.1 DISCIPLINE AND DRUGS

The School Rules are explicit about illicit drugs being forbidden. Cardinal School Rule III forbids "the possession or use of any illegal or dangerous drug (including 'legal highs') or solvent".

Any pupil involved in illegal drugs when they are under the School's authority can expect to be excluded from school and the police informed.

The Headmaster has the right to:

- Permanently exclude any pupil for possessing, using, supplying or otherwise being concerned in any way with illicit drugs or other harmful substances at any time during their time at school;
- Treat as a breach of School discipline behaviour during the School's holidays which is liable to bring the School into disrepute; and
- Permanently exclude a pupil where it has been brought to his attention that a pupil has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug.

If the School is made aware of drug use outside the authority of the School, then the Headmaster reserves the right to apply any of the aforementioned sanctions in order to safeguard the child and others within the School's community.

4.2 POSSESSION OF AN ILLEGAL SUBSTANCE/DRUG

Staff may take temporary possession of a substance known or thought to be illicit. Such substances will be handed over to the Headmaster or the Second Master who will arrange for such tests as may be necessary or for their disposal.

The Headmaster may require any pupil to submit to an appropriate drugs test, whether on suspicion (e.g. rumours, paraphernalia, physical signs, behavioural signs) of the use of illicit drugs or other harmful substances or otherwise at his sole discretion. In this event parents will be given notice of the procedure to be followed.

Refusal to co-operate, unless there are particular reasons, will be considered a strong presumption of involvement with drugs or illicit substances and may be incompatible with a pupil remaining at the School.

If the Headmaster/Second Master has particular concerns, they may cause a search to be carried out of any pupil's personal possessions or room in line with the Searches and Confiscations Policy.

In matters to do with drugs which must inevitably be considered in the context of the criminal law and the possibility of criminal investigation, the School and the local police work closely together. The police will be informed when illicit drugs are found on a pupil or on school premises. The School reserves the right, however, to carry out its own disciplinary proceedings whatever may or may not be decided by the police and at a time independent of any proceedings initiated by the police.

The Headmaster is responsible for any dealings with the media. It is not the School's policy to volunteer any comment on disciplinary matters of any kind, which it considers the private concern of the School and the pupils themselves and their families. In cases where information has reached the media, it may be necessary to confirm that an incident has occurred or that disciplinary action has been taken.

5 DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL AND PROCEDURES

The School's Terms and Conditions states: "The School may undertake drugs testing of pupils in accordance with its drugs policy. The drugs policy has been adopted for disciplinary purposes, and with the aim of safeguarding the health and safety of all pupils".

A pupil suspected of involvement with illegal substances, either in or out of term time, may be asked to give a biological sample in the Wellbeing Centre under the supervision of the Assistant Head, Pastoral. Reason to suspect use of drugs or substances may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.

Where there is a positive test, or where the pupil or parents refuse to provide a sample to be tested, the School will follow a disciplinary procedure. The taking of the unauthorised

substances outside of term time will be deemed irrelevant if the drugs test is positive during term time and normal sanctions will apply.

5.1 SUPPORTIVE TESTING REGIME

The Headmaster may, at his sole discretion (after consultation with the Chair of Governors), as an alternative to permanent exclusion in cases which do not involve the supply or encouragement to others to use illegal drugs, permit a pupil to remain at school subject to a regime of testing at random intervals. This can also apply to a pupil who has a past history from a previous school of drug related concerns.

Both parents and pupils to whom the regime is offered are required to sign a consent form describing the way in which this regime will operate. A pupil testing positive to illegal drugs while on this regime may be permanently excluded as a result of subsequent investigations. All records of drug testing will not be used for any other purpose and will be destroyed when the pupil concerned leaves the School.

6 SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

From time to time the School will arrange sessions in which information about illegal drugs and their use will be presented, as well as on tobacco/vaping and alcohol.

6.1 EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The School has a pro-active policy concerning the use of illegal drugs and substances, alcohol and tobacco/vapes. This is expressed in science and PSHE lessons.

7 MONITORING AND REVIEW

Any incidents relating to substance abuse are discussed at the weekly Safeguarding meeting. The weekly Pastoral Bulletin includes information regarding sanctions for offences of substance abuse and supportive measures put in place. The DSL and Second Master record all incidents on CPOMS and a report is made to the Governors on a termly basis. The DSL and Second Master review all incidents to identify any patterns of behaviour and ensure consistency of sanctions and support. If there is a need for curriculum adjustment identified, then this will be discussed with the Head of PSHE.

APPENDIX A DRUG TESTING REGIME CONSENT FORMS

CONSENT FORM

Full name of pupil:

Pupil's date of birth: **Age now:**

1. **I have admitted to bringing a controlled drug or substance into school (or a previous school/have a previous record of drug taking), in breach of the school's rules.**

   The Headmaster has offered me a supportive regime under which I may, at any time, be
   asked to provide either a urine sample or a hair sample under the supervision of a senior member of staff.

   Any sample will be collected in accordance with the guidelines set out by MOSA (the Association of Medical Officers in Schools) and may be tested at school or sent to an external specialist laboratory.

2. **I understand that I may be asked to provide a sample at any reasonable time even though no further grounds exist at that time to suspect that I have been involved with drugs or substances.**

3. **I agree to be subject to this regime and to co-operate with the school in every respect.**

4. **I understand that the school will take all reasonable care to preserve my confidentiality and human rights in the operation of this regime.**

5. **I also understand that if without good reason I fail to co-operate with this regime, or if a test proves positive, I may be required to leave Giggleswick School.**

Signed: **Date:**

Declaration of Parents/Guardian/Education Guardian

Full name of pupil:

I/We the undersigned have read the conditions laid out in this consent form.

For my/our part, I/we accept the Head's offer of a supportive regime for the above named pupil, as described above.

I/We undertake to co-operate with the regime in all respects and to pay the laboratory charges for each test, if applicable.

Signed:	**Signed:**
Full name:	**Full name:**
Relationship to Pupil:	**Relationship to Pupil:**
Date:	**Date:**