DULWICH COLLEGE
FOUNDED 1619

ALCOHOL, NICOTINE AND VAPING POLICY (YEARS 7 TO 13)

The College seeks to comply with the law with regard to alcohol, nicotine products and vaping and wishes to encourage its pupils to behave in a way which is within the law and/or deemed to be fitting for them and in the best interests for their welfare.

References to nicotine in this policy shall include all nicotine/tobacco products (including cigarettes, nicotine pouches and tobacco pouches (snus) and any associated paraphernalia).

Reference to vapes in this policy shall include e-cigarettes and any vaping equipment.

As part of its Wellbeing programme the College believes that it should ensure that its pupils have a substantial knowledge of current medical opinion about the use of alcohol, nicotine products and vapes. The objectives of the education provided by the College are:

- to educate pupils on the effects of the use of nicotine products, alcohol and vapes on the mind and body;
- to provide opportunities for pupils to practise personal and social skills, and the strategies needed to deal with situations where they may be offered alcohol, nicotine products and/or vapes;
- to provide pupils and parents with information about 'help' agencies;
- to remind pupils that it is illegal to sell nicotine products/vapes to anyone under the age of 18 and that the selling or supplying of alcohol to other minors is also prohibited;
- to remind pupils that it is particularly serious to drink alcohol and/or use any nicotine products and/or vape in College uniform; and
- to inform pupils of the College's own position.

Pupils are prohibited from being in possession of or drinking/using alcohol, nicotine products and/or vapes on any College premises or when representing the College (including when on a trip). Any pupil found to be in possession of, or using alcohol, nicotine products and/or vapes on any College premises or when representing the College or on a trip shall have all prohibited items permanently confiscated and will face suspension. After a second offence, they may face exclusion. The College will, however, consider any incident involving alcohol, tobacco or vapes on an individual basis and recognises that a variety of responses will be necessary to deal with such incidents.

In the case of alcohol, there may be certain occasions where pupils who are legally permitted to drink alcohol may be allowed to do so, under strict guidance and supervision of the College. In decisions it makes, the College will comply with the law and seek to balance the interests of the pupil(s) with the interests of other members of the College.

The College wishes to support parents as well as it can and will seek to inform them in general terms about the education policy for alcohol, nicotine products and vapes. Parents will be informed by the College if their son is involved in any incident involving any such substances. Pupils who wish to cease smoking (or using other nicotine products), vaping and/or drinking are encouraged at any time to seek assistance from members of College staff.

Guidance to Staff

If a member of staff believes that a pupil attending a College event is:

- drinking alcohol when they should not be drinking alcohol;
- drinking alcohol they are not permitted to drink; and/or
- drinking alcohol to excess,

they should promptly report the matter to the staff on duty.

If a member of staff believes, or it is reported to them, that a pupil may have either alcohol, nicotine products, or vapes on their person or in their possession at the College, they should report the matter to the Head of School or Head of Year immediately. Action by the Head of School will then be taken.

- The pupil will be seen by the Head of School and another member of staff together and told that the accusation has been made.
- The pupil will be asked to empty their pockets, bags etc. in front of the Head of School and a staff witness. Their locker(s) may also be searched. Searches will be conducted in accordance with the College's Search & Confiscation of Pupil Property Policy (Years 3 to 13) and the relevant Department for Education guidance.
- If a pupil refuses, they will be detained, and parents will be contacted.
- Parents will be informed of the accusation, and the results of any subsequent search.
- A decision will be made about the method of dealing with the incident.
- Parents will be informed.

Any member of staff who believes that a pupil or pupils are using or supplying alcohol, nicotine products or vapes whilst on College premises should report the matter immediately to the Head of School or Head of Year who will investigate the allegations following the above guidelines.

Policy Owner:	Deputy Master Pupils & Safeguarding
Last Reviewed:	October 2026
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