

Denstone College **Policy on Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking**

The following policy is made available to staff, both teaching and support, pupils and parents.

Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking

General Policy

College regulations state: Certain activities are forbidden at the College. These include: smoking, using illegal drugs, new psychoactive substances (NPS - previously referred to as 'legal highs') & e-cigarettes, gambling and drinking alcohol, with the exception of drinking in the Senior School Club by those entitled to do so at the times permitted. Smoking inside College buildings is considered an extreme breach of College regulations. Being with anyone breaking these rules is also a serious breach of College discipline. The possession and/or supply of materials associated with these forbidden activities are extreme breaches of College regulations.

Denstone College is committed to the health and safety of its members and will take action to safeguard their well-being.

Denstone College will tolerate neither the misuse of illegal drugs or NPS, alcohol or cigarettes and e-cigarettes or related products by members of the College, nor the illegal supply of these substances.

Denstone College acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the College's general ethos. It will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems of substance abuse.

Illegal Drugs and NPSs

Policy Aims

Denstone College believes and supports the following educational aims in respect of drugs and substances use and misuse:

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

These aims are fulfilled through a PSHE programme, and pastoral care, help and advice are always available from staff and the College Medical Centre. The College actively co-operates with other agencies such as the local Police and Social Services to deliver its commitment to drugs education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse. The policy will be reviewed regularly and in the light of any drug related incidents.

There will be no random tests of pupils for drug abuse. However, if there is reason to suspect that a particular pupil has been misusing drugs, the Headmaster reserves the right to authorise a test of a urine sample.

Investigation

The College will investigate any rumour about involvement with drugs or substances. The investigation may involve segregating a pupil; asking him/her questions; asking him/her to give a written account of circumstances; searching his/her room or personal belongings; taking possession of property for analysis; and asking the pupil to provide a urine sample under appropriate supervision. Investigations will be conducted fairly and in accordance with natural justice. Interviews will normally be carried out by the Headmaster or a senior member of staff as delegated by him..

The pupil should be accompanied at interview by a member of staff. Parents will be kept informed so far as is practicable. Sources of information will not normally be disclosed.

Testing Policy

A test will only be required following consultation between **relevant pastoral staff** and the Headmaster, or in the absence of the latter, the Second Master or the Deputy Head Pastoral. Wherever possible a pupil's parents will be informed by telephone before a test is conducted.

The following procedure will be adopted in such circumstances:

- In the first instant the medical team will try to ascertain what substance has allegedly been taken to consider whether the SureScreen urine point of care test kit is suitable for screening purpose.
- If suitable, the medical centre will carry out a drug test using a urine point of care testing kit supplied by SureScreen. This test will screen the urine sample for a range of different substances and will give a result in a matter of minutes.
- If it is unclear what substance may have been taken or if the SureScreen urine point of care test kit is not suitable, then two urine samples will be collected using recognised procedures to ensure that the samples are genuine and not interfered with in any way between the donor and the testing laboratory. These samples will then be forwarded to SureScreen for analysis in their laboratory at the College's expense.
- In the event that a pupil should provide a positive drug test using the SureScreen urine point of care test kit, they will then be offered a second urine test using the return to laboratory urine tests again supplied by SureScreen at the College's expense.
- Two urine samples will be collected by the College Medical Centre using recognised procedures to ensure that the samples are genuine and not interfered with in any way between the donor and the testing laboratory. These samples will then be forwarded to SureScreen for analysis in their laboratory.
- The written consent of the pupil will be obtained before the samples are collected, and parents will be informed as soon as is possible. (see Appendix 1)

- The results of the tests will be communicated to the Headmaster, who will exercise his discretion over the action then to be taken regarding the pupil's future.

The Urine Testing Policy is designed to be constructive and to support those pupils most at risk from drug taking, to dispel ill-founded suspicion of drug taking and to act as a general and efficient deterrent. As a college we recognise that teenagers can be vulnerable to drug abuse when the brain and body are still developing and can lead to a wide range of adverse effects on the brain, body, behaviour and health. Substance abuse use can create challenges which impact on every aspect of an individual's life, potentially leading to health issues and affecting life both at home and at school. The drugs sanction policy allows the College to exercise clemency where it is merited, or give support and advice to those who need it. The primary purpose of drug testing is not to punish students but to prevent drug abuse and to help students to become drug free and from developing a drug problem. 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 for it within the College.

Sanctions

- Any pupils selling or distributing drugs or NPSs or otherwise actively encouraging their possession or consumption can expect to be expelled in line with the policy on Permanent Exclusion*.
- Anyone caught possessing or consuming illegal drugs or NPSs while under the College's jurisdiction in term time loses any right to continued membership of the College and must expect expulsion to be a very strong possibility.
- The Headmaster has a duty to contact the Police about the possession, consumption or supply of an illegal drug, since it constitutes a criminal offence.
- If the only firm evidence that a pupil has been involved with drugs is a positive urine test, he or she may be allowed to stay provided that he or she
 - a) gives a written assurance to the Headmaster and to his/her parents that he/she will not become involved with illegal drugs again;
 - b) agrees to undergo the urine tests at various times during his/her remaining school career. (See Appendix 2)

The same undertakings will also be required of any pupils who may be allowed back after an offence because of mitigating circumstances. Any subsequent offence involving illegal drugs or NPS offence will result in expulsion.

Parents of pupils who have been involved in an illegal drugs or a NPS related incident and have been allowed back to College on condition of parental consent to testing will be charged for tests according to the Consent Form.

College regulations also state "a disregard for the law of the land or the reputation of the College is considered a breach of College rules." This can be interpreted to cover holidays and exeats.

* Extract from the Policy on College Discipline & Policy on Exclusion.

****Permanent Exclusion*** is used as a final option if there is a serious breach of College regulations following a written final warning or if the breach of regulations is considered serious enough to move immediately to that level.

Exclusions are decided on by the Headmaster, in consultation with senior staff as required such as the Second Master, the Deputy Head Pastoral, the Senior Master, Senior Pastoral Lead and a pupil's Head of House or Head of School. In addition, permanent exclusion would be discussed with the Chair of Governors.

Parents have the right to appeal as detailed in the parents' complaints procedure.

Alcohol Policy

College regulations state that pupils are forbidden from drinking alcohol at the College "... with the exception of drinking in the Senior School Club by those entitled to do so at the times permitted" and for Senior School pupils only at social events (see below).

The misuse of alcohol or its illegal purchasing and/or supply will not be tolerated.

Alcoholic drinks may not be brought into College by pupils.

Action will be taken to promote and maintain the health and safety of members of the College.

Pupils will receive information and guidance concerning health, safety and social issues with regard to alcohol. This is available through the PSHE programme, from the College's medical staff and as part of pastoral support.

Social Events

It is important that social events where alcohol is available are carefully monitored. Pupils in the 5th form or below may not drink alcohol at any College social event (e.g. House dinners, College barbecues, House social evenings, Sports events) unless exceptional circumstances have been sanctioned by the Headmaster in advance. Senior School pupils may drink normal strength beers, lagers, ciders or wine (but not with a high alcohol content) under the supervision of the member of staff responsible for the event. College policy on alcohol and social events must be made clear to pupils prior to and if necessary during the event by the organiser. Drinking spirits is forbidden.

If parents are present at social events, the above policy should be made clear to them when the event is publicised in order to avoid conflicting standards becoming a problem.

Public Houses & Shops

Pupils must abide by the law as well as College regulations. No pupil under the age of 18 may purchase alcohol. U6th pupils may ask the permission of the Head of the Senior School or the Head of Girls' Boarding to visit a pub. On these occasions if those aged 18 or over purchase alcoholic drinks it must only be in moderation. Those under 18 may attend if they have parental consent and the permission of the Head of Senior School or the Head of Girls' Boarding, but must not drink alcohol.

Shops or pubs known to have sold alcohol to pupils under the age of 18 will be contacted by the College and the police will usually be informed.

Alcohol Related Offences

Bringing alcohol into College, unauthorised alcohol consumption, drinking to excess, supplying alcohol to other members of the College, being with others drinking alcohol and concealing knowledge of other pupils' drinking are all considered serious breaches of College discipline. In addition, pupils are not permitted to possess empty alcohol vessels such as bottles or cans at the College; those vessels supplied at official functions as described above and/or in the Senior School Club will be disposed of once empty. Empty vessels found in the private possession of pupils will be considered to have been consumed in an unauthorised manner in the College and appropriate sanctions applied.

Sanctions

Each case will be considered on its own merits but as a general rule the consumption of spirits and/or intoxication which may be associated with anti-social behaviour will be deemed particularly serious breaches of discipline. A first offence may result in Senior Master's punishment. Parents and/or guardians will be informed. Pupils will be required to study and make notes from literature concerning health and safety issues. Subsequent offences may result in an extension of the above sanctions or suspension from College, and in extreme cases expulsion.

Smoking Policy

College regulations state: "Smoking... (is) forbidden. Smoking inside College buildings is considered an extreme breach of College regulations. Being with anyone breaking these rules is also a serious breach of College discipline."

College regulations apply whenever pupils are in the care of the College, including school visits, social occasions etc. Pupils must abide by the law as well as College regulations. No pupil under the age of 18 may purchase tobacco products or e-cigarettes and related products.

There are serious health risks associated with smoking. This policy and the College's approach to the issue aim to encourage an educated, informed understanding of the problems connected with smoking. The PSHE programme, medical and other pastoral staff all help fulfil these aims.

It is understood that some pupils already smoke regularly before their arrival at the College. Some parents and institutions may have a more liberal approach. College policy however is based on medical evidence as well as social considerations. In these cases, the usual sanctions combined with support in giving up will apply.

Sanctions

Staff finding pupils smoking cigarettes or e-cigarettes will report this to the Senior Master and the pupil's Head of House and Head of School. On the first offence, the Senior Master will issue one or two days' duties as well as requiring pupils to make notes from anti-smoking literature. The Senior Master will write to parents.

Pupils will be required to contribute a fixed sum to charity of £10. On subsequent occasions stronger sanctions (extensions of the above) will be employed.

Continued abuse of the smoking regulations may result in suspension or even in the pupil concerned being required to leave the College.

Support

Advice and support concerning strategies for giving up smoking are available from College medical staff. In extreme cases and at parents' request appropriate medication may be given. The cost for any course of treatment is to be met by parents.

Appendix 1

Consent to drug testing

There has been reason to believe that you may have in your possession or consumed an illegal substance.

Denstone College has a duty of care to its pupils and as part of that duty we will be undertaking a drug test by testing a sample of your urine.

Please read the information leaflets provided on any current medication and then please sign the consent form allowing us to test you.

Name of pupil: _____

Date of birth. _____

Address.

Pupil's signature _____

Date: _____

Teacher's signature. _____

Date: _____

Medical staff signature _____

Date: _____

Appendix 2

Consent to Drugs Testing Support Programme

DATE

FULL NAME OF PUPIL

PUPIL'S DATE OF BIRTH AGE NOW

I/WE the persons having parental responsibility for the above-named pupil have been informed that the pupil has admitted possession of controlled drugs on/off College premises within the last thirty days.

I/WE and the pupil recognise that unlawful possession or use of a controlled drug by a pupil on/ off College premises is a criminal offence and a serious breach of College discipline which entitles the Headmaster to expel or to require permanent removal of a pupil from the College.

The Headmaster, in this instance only and as an alternative to expulsion/removal of the pupil, has offered the pupil a supportive testing regime for a period of 12 months from today which I/we and the pupil wish to accept. In this consent form "sample" means a sample of the pupil's urine (taken in accordance with the College's Procedures for Testing) which will be sent for standard screening to an independent laboratory.

I/We understand that the regime will be conducted in the following manner:

1. Within 24 hours of this consent being signed (or within another period as the Headmaster shall specify) the pupil will, with a supervisor, meet the Sister in the Medical Centre and provide a sample of urine where a point of care test will be carried out in the Medical Centre enabling a swift result . A second sample will be forwarded to the Laboratory for a more in depth result if necessary.
2. Thereafter, the Headmaster may require the pupil to go to the Medical Centre and to provide a further sample on up to three occasions during a school term without prior notice.
3. It will not be a pre-condition that the Headmaster or any member of staff has formed a suspicion of the pupil's being in possession of, or having recently used a controlled drug, for there to be a requirement to provide a sample.
4. The existence of this regime together with any requirement for a sample to be given, the taking of the sample and the communication of results shall be treated as confidential information within a circle of confidentiality which includes the Headmaster, the pupil's Head of School and House, the Medical Centre and the Bursar's Department, and any other members of staff for whom the information is deemed necessary. The College cannot accept responsibility (unless negligent) if such information becomes more widely known among other members of staff or pupils.
5. Every sample will be given, certified and sent for testing in accordance with the College's Testing Policy (see: Drugs, Alcohol and Smoking Policy). A copy of the policy, which can be found on the College website, will be provided upon the written request of a parent. There will be no reference to urine tests for drugs on the permanent medical record of a pupil.
6. The cost of each test shall be charged to the pupil's account as an extra payable by the parents.
7. The College does not undertake to require samples to be given three times per term or at all.

The above-named pupil has read and understood this form. She/he agrees to accept this regime as a condition of remaining at the College and to give his/her full co-operation. She/he understands that if the Headmaster acting on information is of the opinion that the pupil has failed to co-operate or if a test proves positive there may be no alternative to the pupil's expulsion or removal from the College.

The pupil while at College is a full member of the school community to whom the standard terms and conditions of the College and all other rules and regulations for the time being in force will apply.

First Signature

Second Signature

Full Name (1st)

Full Name (2nd).....

Relationship to pupil (1st).....

Relationship to pupil (2nd).....

Pupil's Full Name

.....

Pupil's Signature Date.....

Head's Signature Date.....