



RGS SURREY HILLS

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco/Vaping Policy

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Introduction

Drug, vaping and alcohol use and misuse have become increasingly common in society, and the pressure on pupils to be involved is now substantial. As part of our responsibility to the pupils and to society, the school recognises the need to:

- prepare and equip pupils for life in an alcohol, vaping and drug-using society;
- deal with a broad range of alcohol, vaping and drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the life of our pupils and others involved in the life of the school;
- teach pupils how to use legal drugs such as alcohol responsibly once they are old enough.

The aim of this policy is to outline the school's approach to all drugs, namely:

- Illegal drugs;
- Legal drugs, including alcohol, vapes, tobacco, over the counter and prescription drugs.

1. Illegal drugs

The school's policy is that RGS Surrey Hills should be free from illegal drugs. We believe that involvement with illegal drugs is always wrong for the following reasons:

- Young people involved with illegal drugs run the risk of obtaining a criminal conviction which will affect employment prospects throughout their lives;
- Drugs have harmful physical side-effects. Some of these are unpredictable and fairly immediate and account for a number of premature deaths amongst young people each year; all are now associated with longer term health problems;
- A small number of young people quickly develop some form of dependency on drugs;
- Involvement in drug culture tends to draw young people away from more worthwhile activities and often results in a falling away of academic performance;
- Involvement with illegal drugs is damaging to the school community as a whole.

Parents should be aware of the particular dangers of allowing young people to attend parties which are not supervised by adults.

Any pupil found to be involved with illegal or other harmful drugs while under school jurisdiction either on or off school premises can expect to be suspended from school and may subsequently be expelled depending on the circumstances. The school reserves the right to inform the police where they believe a crime has or may have been committed.

2. Legal Drugs

a. Tobacco/Vaping

- The school operates a no smoking and no vaping policy at all times throughout the buildings and grounds and on school trips and visits.
- Any pupil found to be smoking or vaping or to have any related equipment will face a serious sanction.
- This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents and visitors.

b. Alcohol

- Pupils who are in the possession of alcohol, or are under the influence of alcohol, on school premises or under the jurisdiction of the school (i.e. school trips), are committing a serious breach of school rules and are liable to a period of suspension.
- No pupil, including those of legal age, should visit licensed premises during school hours.
- No alcoholic drink may be consumed on School premises or at School events, unless, in the case of certain events involving members of the Sixth Form, the member of staff responsible has obtained specific prior permission from the Headteacher and parent.

c. **Solvents**

- Misuse of solvents will be treated as for controlled drugs above.
- Some ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored or managed.
- Solvent substances in classrooms and labs are stored securely in line with COSHH regulations.

d. **Medication**

- Asthma inhalers are kept by pupils for easy and immediate access. Spare inhalers are kept in the Medical Room and at specified points around the site
- Medicines that need to be taken by pupils during the school day are to be kept in the Medical Room.
- Special arrangements are made for pupils who suffer from serious medical conditions which require urgent or specialist care.
- Epipens/auto-injectors: these are kept by pupils for immediate access, with spares in designated places. Staff are routinely made aware of these places, and about the pupils who possess epipens/auto-injectors.

3. Drugs, Substance and Alcohol Education

The aim of our drug education is to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed choices and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

Objectives:

- To provide accurate information about drugs, illegal substances and alcohol and the law relating to them.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs, illegal substances and alcohol
- To provide the opportunity to examine attitudes and values towards drug and alcohol use.
- To identify of sources of appropriate personal support.

This education is provided through the school's Personal Development Curriculum and PSHEE programme, and also through the science curriculum. Visiting speakers (e.g. health specialists) and our School Nurse form a valuable part of the drugs, illegal substances, vaping and alcohol education programme. Further details of the programme are available from the Personal Development Curriculum Lead.

Parents are also given the opportunity to find out about the school's drug, vaping and alcohol policy through this policy and through attendance at the relevant Parents' Forum.

4. Dealing with Drug Related Incidents

Any pupil found to be involved with illegal or other harmful drugs while under school jurisdiction either on or off school premises can expect to be suspended from school and may subsequently be expelled depending on the circumstances. The school reserves the right to inform the police.

However, the school considers each drug related incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses is necessary to deal with incidents. It carefully considers the implication of any action it takes and seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, other school pupils and the local community.

- Sanctions include withdrawal of privileges, detentions, fixed-term exclusions, and the option of permanent exclusion for more serious drug related incidents.
- Other pastoral care includes the use of in-school counselling, referral to outside agencies for counselling, behaviour contracts (including the willingness to submit to random drug testing), referral to outside agencies for further drug education.

The management of drug related incidents is co-ordinated through one of the Deputy Heads, in conjunction with relevant heads of year and tutors.

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Exclusions Policy
- PSHEE Policy
- Safeguarding Policy