KINGSTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1561

SMOKING, ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1 Introduction

Purpose of this policy

1.1 This policy aims to provide a clear statement of the School's approach to smoking, alcohol, drugs and other substance abuse. It covers the School's approach to educating its students about such matters; its policy on the possession and consumption/use by students; the relationship between the School and parents; and the obligations attendant on both the School and parents as a consequence.

1.2 Specific provisions in relation to smoking, alcohol, drugs and other substance abuse are set out in Section 2 below.

1.3 Section 3 sets out provisions in relation to Confidentiality and the School's Two Strand (Pastoral and Disciplinary) approach to drug and alcohol related incidents.

Definitions

1.4 **Alcohol** means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers possession, consuming, and offering/supplying alcohol.

1.5 **Smoking** refers to the possession, use or offer/supply of tobacco and nicotine in all its forms, and includes cigarettes, vapes and other similar substitutes (e.g. snus), and related paraphernalia such as pipes, lighters etc.

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1.6 **Drugs and Other Substances** refers to the possession, use or offer/supply of controlled drugs (including illegal possession, use and supply of prescription drugs), and the paraphernalia of drugs or substances intended to resemble drugs, or "legal" drugs/highs which can be obtained over the counter or online, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and psychoactive substances held or supplied for purposes of misuse.

Jurisdiction of this policy

1.7 This policy will apply to all students on the school roll. It applies throughout the school day, whether on or off the school premises, and whenever in the care of the School including when taking part in any school-organised or school-related activity such as trips and visits. It also applies to all students when they are travelling to and from School, wearing school uniform or in some other way identifiable as a student at the School. It may also apply in other circumstances when their conduct outside school could have repercussions for the orderly running of the school, poses a threat to another student or member of the public, or could adversely affect the reputation of the school.

1.8 See also *Code of Conduct for School Trips*.

2 Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs/Substance Misuse

2.1 Smoking

2.1.1 The school site is a non-smoking site. There are smoke and vape detectors in appropriate locations.

Rules

2.1.2 Students must not bring any smoking materials on to school premises.

2.1.3 Students are not allowed to smoke or have any smoking materials in their possession in any circumstance where this policy may apply.

2.1.4 Any infringement of these rules may result in a disciplinary sanction.

2.2 Alcohol

Alcohol education

2.2.1 We recognise that alcohol is not an illegal substance in itself (unless purchased by a child under the age of 18), and that it is generally considered to be socially acceptable when used in moderation; however, we also know that alcohol poses real dangers for young people. We seek to educate young people so that they can distinguish between acceptable and irresponsible drinking. The PSHE programme concerned specifically with alcohol recognises that alcohol is a drug, and that young people are particularly vulnerable to its effects.

2.2.2 Specific aims of alcohol education at KGS:

- To educate students about the effects that alcohol has on the mind and body.
- To help students understand the relationship between alcohol consumption and risks to health (including accident and long-term damage).
- To understand the various reasons (social, cultural and religious) why people may choose to drink or not to drink.
- To identify strategies for safer drinking.

2.2.3 The School is conscious of the need to educate its students in the responsible consumption of alcohol – including in relation to drink and driving – and believes that allowing students to decide, within their own moral and religious framework, to drink alcohol responsibly in the circumstances outlined below will enable it to achieve this aim. If, however, parents do have questions about the school's policy on alcohol, or wish to discuss any aspect of it, they should contact the student's Head of Year to do so.

Rules

2.2.4 Alcohol must not be brought into school.

2.2.5 Other than at formal events in the exceptional circumstances set out at 2.2.7 below, students are not allowed to consume alcohol or have any alcohol in their possession or offer/supply alcohol in any circumstance where this policy may apply.

2.2.6 Any infringement of these rules, including students who are intoxicated on entry into school or found to be so during the school day or while under the School's care, may result in a serious disciplinary sanction.

Formal Events where consumption of alcohol may be permitted

2.2.7 Students who are aged 18 or over and in the Sixth Form may be permitted to consume alcohol at a formal event on the following conditions:

Prior to the event:

- The member of staff responsible for organising the event must request prior permission by completing the correct form which must be signed off by the Head or one of the Deputy Heads.
- A signed parental consent form is required.

At the event, provided the required signed forms have been obtained as above, then:

- Students may consume a maximum of two alcoholic drinks.
- They are not permitted to purchase alcohol from a bar.
- Open bottles of alcohol will not be left on tables – students will be served individual drinks.

School Trips

2.2.8 This policy applies in all respects on school trips. For the avoidance of doubt, this means that students are not allowed to consume alcohol while on any school trip either in the UK or abroad. For further details, see the *Code of Conduct for School Trips*.

2.3 Drugs and Other Substance Misuse

Rules

2.3.1 The School operates a total ban on the possession, use or offer/supply of drugs and other substances.

2.3.2 The School's total ban applies to all students in any circumstance where this policy may apply.

2.3.3 Any infringement of these rules, including students who are under the influence of drugs or other substances on entry into school or found to be so during the school day, may result in a serious disciplinary sanction.

Substance Abuse Education

2.3.4 We believe that the purpose of educating students about drugs and other substance abuse (and about smoking and alcohol) should be to give them the knowledge, skills and attitudes to appreciate the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and to relate these to their own actions now and in the future.

2.3.5 Senior pastoral staff have a good understanding and knowledge of the types of substance abuse that our students are most likely to encounter and of their physiological effects. The Head and Deputy Heads, the School Nurse and the School Counsellors can offer guidance to all staff. The school has further substance abuse educational material and contact details, available on our Intranet, for students or staff needing information or confidential helplines (see also Appendix 1).

2.3.6 Substance abuse education takes place in the following activities:

- PSHE lessons, delivered by experienced staff members and addressing the cognitive, social and emotional factors associated with drug use.
- Specialist lectures and presentations.
- Other lessons, both within and outside the formal curriculum, in extra-curricular activities and through the School's pastoral system (eg. tutorials and assemblies).

2.3.7 All teaching staff are expected to be mindful of the effective management of incidents involving substance abuse, as part of their statutory duty to safeguard students. This includes being alert to the signs that suggest possible involvement, the procedures to follow when conducting searches (see *Behaviour Policy*) and how to respond appropriately to students seeking advice and help. Periodic training is provided for all staff by means of briefings at staff in-service training.

3 Other matters

Confidentiality

3.1 In accordance with the school's *Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Procedures*, the school regards all students as a "child" regardless of their age. Staff should remember that unconditional confidentiality cannot be promised to a student. If a teacher feels that a student is going to tell them something significant, or if a student requests in advance that nobody else be told, the member of staff will stress to the child that this may not be possible. If any member of staff judges that a student is at risk or in danger, they must talk to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or another teacher with designated safeguarding or pastoral responsibilities.

3.2 Parents of any students with any concerns about alcohol, drug or substance abuse-related matters will be encouraged to share their concerns with the School, in order they ensure the safety of their, or any other, child at school. It is important that students (and their parents) feel able to report to the School any concerns about alcohol, drug or substance abuse-related matters; to that end, the school may keep the details of those reporting concerns confidential. The school may if appropriate pass on the content of reported concerns to the parents of any student allegedly involved in alcohol, drug or substance abuse-related matters, so that parents can take appropriate steps and measures to safeguard their child.

3.3 The School may also take its own steps in the light of concerns received, for example, discussions with the student identified, increased monitoring and vigilance surrounding that student, referral to the school counsellor and other medical staff.

Our Disciplinary and Pastoral Approach

3.4 KGS has a two-strand approach to drug and alcohol related incidents: disciplinary and pastoral. The school's approach will generally involve a disciplinary dimension and will also involve pastoral measures to support the students concerned. However, help without disciplinary intervention may be provided for any students genuinely seeking it as part of the School's pastoral care provision.

3.5 Any incident where a student is suspected of involvement with alcohol or drugs or other substances in breach of this policy will be dealt with promptly and will be reported to the

relevant Head of Year, one of the Deputy Heads and DSL or other member of the safeguarding team.

3.6 The parents/carers of a student alleged to be involved with alcohol or drugs or other substances in breach of this policy can also expect to be informed at an early stage.

3.7 Further deliberations will, at all times, seek to balance the interests of the students involved and those of the other members of the school community.

3.8 Any student who is found to have offered (for sale or otherwise) drugs or other substances to other students or other people will usually be referred to the police and/or Social Services. Criminal law treats supplying (or intending to supply) illegal drugs extremely seriously, and 'dealing' includes giving drugs to friends, even if it is for free. Looking after drugs for someone and then giving them back can also lead to a charge of 'supplying' drugs. Drug-driving is also as illegal as drink-driving and carries the same penalties.

APPENDIX 1 - ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

FRANK
www.talktofrank.com
0300 123 6600 (helpline)
This support agency provides confidential advice 24 hours a day to parents as well as students. They can give information on services in the local area including counselling and specialist clinics.

ADFAM
www.adfam.org.uk
This is a charity aimed at supporting the families and friends of drug users.

Change Grow Live
www.changegrowlive.org
Directory of local services that can support with substance addiction.

Childline
www.childline.org.uk
0800 11 11 (helpline)
Free 24-hour helpline for children or young people in trouble or in danger.

Families Anonymous
www.famanon.org.uk
0207 4984 680 (Helpline)
A global fellowship of families and friends affected by another's abuse of substances – organises a network of support groups for parents of drug users.

MIND
Drug and alcohol addiction - useful contacts - Mind
A network of resources and contacts to support with drug and alcohol addiction.

Young Minds
www.youngminds.org.uk
0808 802 5544 (Parent helpline)
Free confidential helpline providing information and advice for any adult with concerns about the mental health of a young person.