



Alcohol and substance misuse (students)

1 Policy statement

This policy is intended to ensure that King Edward VI College is consistent in the way it tackles instances of alcohol and substance misuse both in terms of its legal obligations (by complying with the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971) and internal procedures.

The substances covered by this policy are alcohol, solvents and illegal drugs, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin, which are not used for a specific medical condition. This policy does not address the use or misuse of substances regulated by COSHH (control of substances hazardous to health).

The objective of the policy is to prevent students exposing themselves to risk as well as preventing risk to others. It is intended to enable those students who are suffering as a result of alcohol or substance misuse to seek appropriate help and support from the college or outside agency voluntarily.

Any such issue will be treated in strict confidence, subject to the provisions of the law.

2 Definition

The college defines abuse as the use of alcohol, solvents or other substances without (or in disregard of) medical advice or prescription. In the context of this policy the consequences are defined as behaviours resulting from the misuse of alcohol, illegal drugs and other substances which harm, or have the potential to harm the individual (both physically or mentally) through the individual's actions, other people and the environment. Further, such conduct could affect safety performance in the college, relationships with other students and members of staff, or may bring the college name into disrepute. Where problems involve the abuse of prescribed drugs, the student concerned will also be covered by this policy.

3 Policy guidelines

- 3.1 It is an offence to consume, traffic or be under the influence or in possession of alcohol or illegal substances on college premises, or whilst participating in any college activity, in or out of college. The college has a zero tolerance attitude to these matters: disciplinary action will be taken.
- 3.2 The college aims to promote a culture where substance misuse and the illegal supply of substances are discussed and individuals are educated and informed about the risks and consequences. This will be achieved through tutorial sessions and training for staff.
- 3.3 Students are informed of the college's procedures for dealing with the possession and consumption of alcohol and illegal drugs during induction and through the tutorial programme.
- 3.4 Staff are informed of the college's procedures for dealing with student alcohol and drug misuse through the regular safeguarding training. Teachers and student support services staff will enforce the college's requirements and procedures but operational staff may be called upon to act as witnesses.
- 3.5 Smoking and vaping are prohibited on college grounds.

- 3.6** The college is committed to the safe and efficient delivery of its services, to promoting the health and well-being of its students and to the provision of a safe teaching and learning environment.
- 3.7** The college will comply with the relevant legislation and promote a corporate culture where drug and alcohol misuse is discouraged.
- 3.8** The college will help to protect its students from the dangers of alcohol and drug misuse and from the pressure of illegal trading of substances. The college will encourage those with a problem, or those who are being criminally exploited, to seek help and protection from external agencies.
- 3.9 Misconduct**
It is a criminal offence to possess, supply or produce illegal drugs, except, relating to possession, where it is permissible if prescribed by a medical practitioner. It is also an offence to permit such drugs to be used, kept or supplied on the premises.

Where it is found that a student brings onto the site any alcohol, solvents, substance or equipment which could be used for substance abuse or consumption, the college will take any action necessary to resolve the issue. Such action may involve the use of the disciplinary procedure for students or staff with the presumption of gross misconduct and permanent exclusion from the college.

4 Annexes

Annex A: Procedures
Annex B: Controlled drug classes

4 Equality Impact

The college's equality, diversity and inclusion policy has been taken into account when considering this policy.

Date of review	Date agreed	JCC	Governors	Review date	Comments
March 2022	31 March 2022	N/A	N/A	March 2025	Next review move in line with H&S policy

Annex A: Procedures

If an individual has been involved in substance misuse and is found to be in urgent need of medical treatment:

- Seek medical help at once (Refer to the Accident and Emergency Procedures)
- If possible, confiscate any drugs with a witness present and give a sample to the ambulance crew
- Inform a member of SLT immediately
- Inform parents/guardians or emergency contact if under 18
- Record the incident via CPOMS
- Activate the disciplinary procedures
- Send report to the Designated Safeguarding Lead

If it is not an emergency the following procedures below should be followed:

- Any person(s) found dealing in illegal / controlled substances on or around the college should be reported immediately to a member of SLT and the Safeguarding Team
- Disciplinary procedures should be activated.
- A member of the Safeguarding Team or SLT will report the incident to the police

Any person(s) found to be in the possession of, or under the influence of, or strongly suspected of taking Class A, B, or C drugs (see Appendix B) and/or alcohol in or around the college should be reported immediately to a member of the safeguarding Team or SLT. Disciplinary procedures will be activated and the Safeguarding Team or SLT may elect to involve the police.

The safeguarding team and SLT may conduct a search of a student suspected of possessing drugs, with at least one witness present. A search involves the student turning out their bag(s) and the pockets of their clothing and removing their shoes. Searches should be carried out with tact and sensitivity and will take cultural sensitivities into account. Students should not be left unattended for any period of time before a search can be conducted.

If the student refuses to co-operate with a request to search them, the safeguarding team or a member of SLT will consult the Principal, who may decide to temporarily exclude the student prior to a meeting with the student and their parents/guardian/carer.

Students who are found to be in possession or under the influence of, or strongly suspected of taking Class A, B or C drugs, and/or alcohol, will be referred to the most appropriate specialist agency. Referrals would normally be via the safeguarding team. Parental consent will be sought for students under the age of 18.

King Edward VI College has a duty of care to all staff and students in relation to the misuse of drugs within the college community. As a result, the college reserves the right to implement the use of drugs dogs within the College to search for any illegal substances that fall within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Annex B: Controlled Drug Classes

Class A drugs are considered by Parliament to be the most harmful. This category includes:

- Heroin
- Methadone
- cocaine (including crack cocaine)
- ecstasy
- magic mushrooms
- 'crystal meth'

An offence involving a Class A substance carries the harshest penalties.

Class B drugs are considered by Parliament to be less harmful than Class A drugs and include:

- amphetamines
- barbiturates
- cannabis
- ketamine
- dihydrocodeine

Certain Class B drugs are reclassified to Class A if they have been prepared for injection. These include amphetamines, dihydrocodeine and codeine.

Class C drugs are considered by Parliament to be the least harmful of the controlled drugs. These include:

- benzodiazepines
- steroids
- subutex (buprenorphine)

Temporary Class Drug Orders (TCDO)

The Home Secretary can make a temporary class drug order (TCDO) under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 should there be a substance that is causing sufficient concern with regards to harm and it is not already controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 as a Class A, B or C substance.