



ST JAMES
Senior Girls' School

Smoking, Alcohol and the Misuse of Drugs and Substances Policy

St James Senior Girls' School

January 2024

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1. Aims

- 1.1. At St James Senior Girls' School, we provide full-time education for pupils of compulsory school age (construed in accordance with section 8 of the Education Act 1996).
- 1.2. This is the policy on smoking, alcohol and the misuse of drugs and substances of St James Senior Girls' School (School)
- 1.3. The aims of this policy are as follows:
 - a) to provide an environment which enriches, enhances and refines our pupils' spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development, giving rise to an expansion in understanding, wisdom and creative potential;
 - b) to promote safety, welfare and good physical and mental health;
 - c) to increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and substances;
 - d) to promote a mature and moderate approach to the use of alcohol;
 - e) to reduce the risk of alcohol-induced misconduct in and out of the School;
 - f) to prevent smoking and the misuse of drugs and substances in and out of the School;
 - g) to maintain a smoke-free environment where smoking (as defined below) is prohibited and to keep unauthorised alcohol, drugs and substances out of the School; and
 - h) to actively promote the rule of law.

2. Scope and application

- 2.1. This policy applies to the whole School
- 2.2. This policy applies to all pupils at the School and at all times when a pupil is:
 - 2.2.1. in or at school;
 - 2.2.2. representing the School or wearing School uniform;
 - 2.2.3. travelling to or from School;
 - 2.2.4. on School-organised trips;
 - 2.2.5. associated with the School at any time.
- 2.3. This policy shall also apply to pupils at all times and places in circumstances where failing to apply this policy may:
 - 2.3.1. affect the health, safety or well-being of a member of the School community or a member of the public;
 - 2.3.2. have repercussions for the orderly running of the School; or
 - 2.3.3. bring the School into disrepute.
- 2.4. This policy applies to the possession, use/consumption, supply of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and substances (as defined below), whether or not the activity may constitute a criminal offence.

3. Regulatory framework

3.1. This policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under the:

- 3.1.1. Education (Independent School Standards) Regulations 2014;
- 3.1.2. Education and Skills Act 2008;
- 3.1.3. Children Act 1989;
- 3.1.4. Childcare Act 2006;
- 3.1.5. Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (**GDPR**);
and
- 3.1.6. Equality Act 2010.

3.2. This policy has regard to the following guidance and advice:

- 3.2.1. Testing for substance misuse in schools (Medical Officers of Schools Association October 2015)
- 3.2.2. DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (Department for Education and
- 3.2.3. Association of Chief Police Officers, September 2012); and
- 3.2.4. Searching, screening and confiscation: advice for schools (DfE, January 2018).
- 3.2.5. Drug penalties guidance (Gov.uk).

3.3. The following School policies, procedures and resource materials are relevant to this policy:

- 3.3.1. Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline policy
- 3.3.2. Expulsion and removal: review procedure;
- 3.3.3. Safeguarding and Child Protection policy;
- 3.3.4. Administration of medicines and supporting pupils with medical conditions policy;
- 3.3.5. Risk assessment policy for pupil welfare; and
- 3.3.6. Parent contract.

4. Publication and availability

4.1. This policy has been prepared to meet the School's responsibilities under the:

- 4.1.1. This policy is published on the School website
- 4.1.2. This policy is available in hard copy on request.
- 4.1.3. A copy of the policy is available for inspection from the school office during the School day.
- 4.1.4. This policy can be made available in large print or other accessible format if required.

5. Definitions

5.1. Where the following words or phrases are used in this policy:

- 5.1.1. References to the **Proprietor** are references to IEAL Board of Governors
- 5.1.2. **Alcohol** means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits).
- 5.1.3. **Biological sample** means a sample of breath, saliva, hair or urine provided by pupil in accordance with the procedures set out in this policy.
- 5.1.4. **Drugs and substances:** for the purposes of this policy these terms means controlled drugs, psychoactive substances, substances intended to resemble drugs, and/or the paraphernalia of drugs such as (without limitation) any equipment, product or accessory intended or modified for making, using or concealing drugs or "legal" drugs i.e. those which can be obtained from a shop (including online), performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of taking/consuming and/or misuse.
- 5.1.5. **Tobacco** means any tobacco-related product and/or paraphernalia including cigarettes, cigars and pipes and any other smoking related products such as tobacco and cigarette papers, nicotine and nicotine substitutes, e-liquids, electronic cigarettes, cig-a-likes and vaporising devices.
- 5.1.6. **Smoking** means smoking tobacco or anything containing tobacco, or smoking any other substance in a form in which it could be smoked. For the purpose of this policy, smoking also refers to the smoking or vaping of e-cigarettes, cig-a-likes, or electronic vaporisers.
- 5.1.7. **Possession** means any items over which the pupil has or appears to have control – this includes clothing, desks, lockers and bags.
- 5.1.8. **Supply** means providing or sharing (whether or not for money or other consideration) or facilitation of supply e.g. sale, exchange or sharing. It also includes the promotion/advertisement of supply.
- 5.1.9. **Use** means the taking/consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substances.

5.1.10. **Misuse** means the unauthorised taking/consumption of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substance through which harm could occur and/or is in breach of the School rules and / or the law.

5.1.11. **Substance abuse** means alcohol consumption or drug/substance taking which harms health and may be part of a wider spectrum of problematic or harmful behaviour.

6. Responsibility statement and allocation of tasks

6.1. The Proprietor has overall responsibility for all matters which are the subject of this policy.

6.2. To ensure the efficient discharge of its responsibilities under this policy, the Proprietor has allocated the following tasks:

Task	Allocated to	When / frequency of review
Keeping the policy up-to-date and compliant with the law and best practice.	Assistant Head, Pastoral, (DSL)	As required, and at least annually
Monitoring the implementation of the policy, relevant risk assessments and any action taken in response and evaluating effectiveness.	Assistant Head, Pastoral, (DSL)	As required, and at least termly.
Maintaining up to date records of all information created in relation to the policy and its implementation as required by the GDPR.	Assistant Head, Pastoral, (DSL)	As required, and at least termly.
Seeking input from interested groups (such as pupils, staff, parents) to consider improvements to the School's processes under the policy.	Assistant Head, Pastoral, (DSL)	As required, and at least annually.
Formal annual review	Proprietor	Annually

7. Smoke free policy

7.1. The School operates a smoke free policy and a total smoking ban within its buildings, grounds and vehicles.

7.2. The total smoking ban applies to the whole School community including pupils, employees, volunteers, parents, visitors, members of the public and others working in or using the School's premises or vehicles and the circumstances set out in Section 2 above.

8. Education and pastoral care

8.1. The School educates pupils to understand:

- 8.1.1. the effect, dangers and risks associated with alcohol and tobacco in relation to their health and well-being and the law; and
- 8.1.2. the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers and will damage the society in which they live.

8.2. The School educates pupils about these issues through its Character Education curriculum, by means of personal development courses, assemblies, by example and by discussion.

8.3. The School encourages pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about use of tobacco, alcohol or drugs and substance abuse with their Form Teacher or another member of staff they feel comfortable speaking with. They also have access to information about outside agencies able to provide advice, support and assistance.

8.4. Matters brought into counselling by a pupil or her parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be "ring-fenced" from disciplinary sanctions, but a pupil who contravenes this policy will face disciplinary action. For example, a pupil who comes forward and voluntarily identifies herself as a drug user and asks for help may be given the opportunity to reform her behaviour with counselling and a supportive testing regime (see Appendix 3). Similarly, pupils who smoke may be given the opportunity to undertake a smoking cessation programme.

8.5. The School is alert to the potential need for early help for a child who misuses drugs or alcohol. A member of staff who has any concern about a pupil's welfare, or considers that a pupil may benefit from early help, should report this to the Designated Safeguarding Lead in accordance with the School's child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures.

8.6. From time to time the Head, Assistant Head, Pastoral (DSL) or the Heads of Year, will remind pupils (as a group or individually) of this policy, encouraging those who may need assistance to identify themselves so that the appropriate care can be provided.

8.7. Parents themselves are asked to inform the Head or Assistant Head, Pastoral (DSL) if they have any reason to think that their child may have been involved with alcohol, tobacco, drugs and substances, so that suitable advice, support and assistance can be given. However, each case will be given careful consideration in light of its individual circumstances and the Head will make a decision as to whether or not the school's disciplinary procedure is to be followed or, as an alternative, to request that the pupil submits to a supportive regime which may include: counselling, re-education and further testing at frequencies determined by the Head.

9. School rules

9.1. Pupils are forbidden from:

- 9.1.1. smoking inside or outside School premises, being in possession of tobacco while in the care of the School or supplying tobacco to other pupils;
- 9.1.2. any production, possession, use or supply of drugs and substances;

- 9.1.3. bringing alcohol onto School premises or being in unsupervised possession of alcohol or obtaining or supplying alcohol to another, or being impaired by alcohol while on School premises or in the care of the School;
 - 9.1.4. bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with tobacco, alcohol or drugs and substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time.
- 9.2. Parents
- 9.2.1. If parents attending School premises appear to be under the influence of drugs or substances or alcohol, they will be asked to leave and the member of staff making the request should refer the matter to the School's Designated Safeguarding Lead.
 - 9.2.2. If a member of staff suspects that a parent has driven or will drive whilst under the influence of drugs or alcohol, the member of staff should report the matter to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a member of the senior management team who may telephone the police.
 - 9.2.3. If the Designated Safeguarding Lead reasonably believes that a child is at immediate risk of harm from a parent who is under the influence of alcohol or drugs, the child will not be released into the care of the parent and the School's child protection procedures will be followed.

10. Investigation

- 10.1. Every complaint, allegation, rumour or observation of pupil behavior in relation to tobacco or alcohol or involvement with drugs and substances will be followed and investigated in accordance with this policy and the procedures set out in the Schools' Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline Policy.
- 10.2. If the findings of the investigation support the allegation, complaint or rumour or observation of pupil behaviour, a disciplinary meeting will usually be held in accordance with the procedures set out in the School's Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline policy.
- 10.3. Searches for tobacco, alcohol, drugs and substances
 - 10.3.1. School staff can search a pupil for tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substances with her consent. The member of staff will consider the pupil's age and other factors when determining whether the pupil is capable of giving her consent.
 - 10.3.2. A pupil may be searched without her consent for tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substances in accordance with the School's policy on searching and confiscation (see the procedures set out in the School's Behaviour Rewards and School Discipline Policy).
- 10.4. Testing
 - 10.4.1. A pupil suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol or involvement with drugs or substances may be asked to give a biological sample. The reason for this policy is to:
 - a) deter breaches of School discipline;
 - b) identify users;
 - c) absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.

- 10.4.2. Reason to suspect alcohol consumption or use of drugs or substances may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.
 - 10.4.3. Alcohol - see Appendix 1 for details of the testing procedure for alcohol.
 - 10.4.4. Drugs and substances - see Appendix 2 for details of the testing procedure for drugs and substances.
- 10.5. Consent to testing
- 10.5.1. The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives her informed consent in writing. Where the pupil is not deemed to have sufficient maturity or understanding or to be fit to give informed consent themselves, then consent will be sought from a parent.
 - 10.5.2. The member of staff leading the investigation will determine whether or not the pupil is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of a medically qualified member of staff.
 - 10.5.3. If a pupil refuses to provide a biological sample she will be asked to say why she has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from her response and general demeanour. If a parent's consent is required and they refuse to consent to their child providing a biological sample, the School may only draw inferences from the pupil's general demeanour.
 - 10.5.4. Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a biological sample is taken, to notify a parent, guardian or education guardian of the requirement for a biological sample and the reasons for that requirement.
 - 10.5.5. The School will treat a positive test, although not infallible, as evidence that the pupil has consumed alcohol or been using drugs or substances, as appropriate
- 10.6. Police involvement
- 10.6.1. The School must notify the police and/or relevant agencies of actual or alleged criminal activity.
 - 10.6.2. If the School seizes a controlled drug or a substance suspected to be a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise the School must deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In all other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset. If the police suspect that a pupil possesses or has stored drugs, substances or related paraphernalia, the police may elect to investigate using their own procedures or may pass the matter back to the School to investigate.

11. Sanctions

- 11.1. Where a pupil breaches any of the School rules set out in this policy, the Proprietor has authorised the Head to apply any sanction which is appropriate and proportionate to the breach in accordance with the School's Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline policy. In addition, consideration will be given to appropriate support for the pupil.
- 11.2. The following guidelines will apply:
 - 11.2.1. **Tobacco and alcohol:** Sanctions will be applied in accordance with the School's Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline policy. For a serious breach or persistent breaches, a pupil may be expelled or removed from the School.
 - 11.2.2. **Drugs: Anyone producing or supplying drugs or substances must expect to be expelled immediately even if she is about to sit public examinations.** Anyone possessing or using drugs must also expect to be expelled in accordance with the School's Behaviour, Rewards and School Discipline policy. In exceptional cases, a supportive regime (see Appendix 3) may be offered as an alternative to expulsion. The Head is not obliged to offer a supportive regime.

12. Training

- 12.1. The School ensures that regular guidance and training is arranged on induction and at regular intervals thereafter so that staff and volunteers are alert to the warning signs of drug misuse, understand what is expected of them by this policy and have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out their roles and respond appropriately when pupils seek advice or assistance.
- 12.2. The level and frequency of training depends on role of the individual member of staff.
- 12.3. The School maintains written records of all staff training.

13. Risk assessment

- 13.1. Where a concern about a pupil's welfare is identified, the risks to that pupil's welfare will be assessed and appropriate action will be taken to reduce the risks identified.
- 13.2. The format of risk assessment may vary and may be included as part of the School's overall response to a welfare issue, including the use of individual pupil welfare plans (such as behaviour, healthcare and education plans, as appropriate). Regardless of the form used, the School's approach to promoting pupil welfare will be systematic and pupil focused.
- 13.3. The Head has overall responsibility for ensuring that matters which affect pupil welfare are adequately risk assessed and for ensuring that the relevant findings are implemented, monitored and evaluated.
- 13.4. Day to day responsibility to carry out risk assessments under this policy will be delegated to the Assistant Head, Pastoral (DSL) who has been properly trained in, and tasked with, carrying out the particular assessment.

14. Record keeping

- 14.1. All records created in accordance with this policy are managed in accordance with the

School's policies that apply to the retention and destruction of records.

- 14.2 Sensitive personal information about pupils is disclosed only on a "need to know" basis with careful attention to pupils' rights and needs.
- 14.3 The records created in accordance with this policy may contain personal data. The School has a number of privacy notices which explain how the School will use personal data about pupils and parents. The privacy notices are published on the School's website. In addition, staff must ensure that they follow the School's data protection policies and procedures when handling personal data created in connection with this policy. This includes the School's data protection policy and information security policy.

Signed by:	Annabel Lubikowski Chair of Governors
Date of adoption of this policy	Autumn2021
Date of last review of this policy	Spring 2024
Date for next review of this policy	Summer 2024
Policy owner (SMT)	Assistant Head, Pastoral (DSL)

Appendix 1 - Testing for Alcohol

1. **Method of use:** Only members of staff who have received training will be authorised to administer the breathalyser. In general, they will be members of the Senior Management Team and the School Nurse.
2. **Refusal:** If a pupil refuses to provide a sample of breath the pupil may be asked to supply, under medical supervision, a further biological sample for analysis in accordance with the drug testing procedures (see Appendix 2).
3. **Record:** A written record will be kept when a pupil is asked to take a test and its outcome will be recorded.

Appendix 2 - Testing for Drugs

1. **Biological sample:** If, outside the context of confidential counselling, there is reason to suspect that a pupil has been involved with drugs or substances, she may be asked to supply, under medical supervision, a biological sample (saliva, hair or urine) for analysis.
2. **Medical supervision:** The biological sample will be taken under medical supervision. A member of the school staff will be present. All due care will be taken to respect the pupil's privacy and human rights.
3. **Testing procedures:** These will be in accordance with standard good practice and where applicable the *Testing for substance misuse in schools* (October 2015) produced by the Medical Officers in Schools Association (**MOSA**):
 - care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the sample provided is genuine and uncontaminated;
 - the pupil will be asked to sign various seals and documents which confirm that the specimens are hers;
 - the pupil will also be asked to sign a form which signifies that she has been satisfied with the collection procedure and gives consent for the results of the test being made available to the Head.
4. **Medical record:** The outcome of the test, whether positive or negative, will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record.
5. **Outcome:** When the School receives the laboratory report:
 - reasonable attempts will be made to notify a parent by telephone;
 - if the result is negative, any second sample will be destroyed immediately;
 - if the result is positive, a second sample will be made available for independent analysis.

Appendix 3 - Supportive Regime

Full name of pupil	
Date	
Pupil's date of birth	
Age now	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I have made a voluntary admission of having used a controlled drug or substance in breach of the School's policy and disciplinary rules. 2. As an alternative to expulsion, the Head has offered me a supportive regime under which for the remainder of this term and the next three school terms, without obligation on the part of the School, I may at any time be asked to provide a saliva/hair /urine sample under medical supervision for analysis in accordance with the procedures described in the attached policy which I have read and understood. 3. I understand that I may be asked to provide a saliva/hair/urine sample at any reasonable time even if no grounds exist at that time to suspect that I have been involved with drugs or substances. 4. I agree to be subject to this regime and to co-operate with the School in every respect. I understand that the School will take all reasonable care to preserve my confidentiality and human rights in the operation of this regime. 5. I also understand that if without good reason I fail to co-operate with this regime or if a test proves positive I would almost certainly be required to leave the School. 	
Signed	

Appendix 4 - Declaration of parents/guardian/education guardian

I/We the undersigned have read the School's policy on drugs and substances, and this Appendix. For my/our part, I/we accept the Head's offer of a supportive regime for the above named pupil, as described above.

I/We undertake to co-operate with the regime in all respects and to pay the laboratory charges for each test which I/we understand to be less than £ plus VAT per test.

Signed	
Full name	
Relationship to pupil	
Date	

Signed	
Full name	
Relationship to pupil	