

Date: November 2025
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Responsibility: SMT (PCT)



DAME ALLAN'S SCHOOLS' DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

1. The Law

Tobacco - It is an offence for children under 18 years old to be sold tobacco products. It is an offence for children under 18 to be sold e-cigarettes or “vapes” (regardless of nicotine content).

Alcohol - The Licensing Act of 1964 makes it illegal for alcohol to be sold to anyone under the age of 18, or for a person under 18 to buy alcohol.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 act makes it illegal for people to:

- a) possess illegal drugs;
- b) possess illegal drugs with intent to supply or offer to supply illegal drugs (including giving them away for free or sharing with others);
- c) produce illegal drugs;
- d) import or export illegal drugs;
- e) allow premises to be used by people to undertake any of these unlawful activities.

In 2013 the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was amended to include substances described as legal highs.

2. General Statement

- The Schools are committed to promoting and protecting the health and safety of their pupils and staff and will take action to safeguard their wellbeing.
- The majority of young people do not use drugs and most of those that do, are not dependent. But drug or alcohol misuse can have a major impact on young people's education, their health, their families and their long-term chances in life.
- The Schools do not condone either the misuse of drugs (including tobacco, alcohol and legal high substances) by members of the Schools, or the illegal supply of these substances.
- The Schools acknowledge the importance of their pastoral role in the welfare of young people.
- The Schools believe they have a duty to inform and educate young people about the consequences of drug use and misuse. Health education is and will be a vital part of the Personal, Social and Health Education of every pupil.

The Schools will actively cooperate with Police, Social Services, Health and drug agencies to deliver their commitment to drug education and to deal with incidents of substance use and misuse.

3. Policy Aims

3.1 Nicotine (including e-cigarettes, snus and "vapes"):

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill-health in our society. The Schools' policy on smoking aims to give pupils the message that the habit creates health problems for smokers and non-smokers alike, that non-smoking represents the norm in society and that it receives support from the Schools and staff.

Vaping and snus have been proven to have negative impacts on health and this policy aims to reinforce the message that they both cause health problems, and that it is normal to not vape or use snus.

Aims:

- to ensure that smoking, vaping and using snus is not tolerated at the Schools;
- to educate pupils as to the immediate dangers of smoking and the risks around vaping and snus
- to encourage those pupils who do smoke, vape or use snus to break free from the habit.

3.2 Alcohol:

Consumption of alcohol can be damaging to health and, even at low levels, the presence of alcohol in the body can impair judgement and create the potential for serious accidents.

Aims:

- to develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body;
- to encourage sensible, appropriate and safe drinking behaviour;
- to practise personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present through PSHE programme;
- to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes;
to enable young people to identify sources or appropriate personal support inside and outside school.

3.3 Drugs:

Drugs (which are illegal under the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Acts 1971 and 2013) can have serious long term health implications when taken regularly and even taken infrequently and in small quantities, the potential for serious health concerns or accidents arises.

Aims:

- to provide accurate information for staff and pupils about substances;
- to encourage an understanding of the health and social implications of the use and misuse of drugs;
- to promote a positive attitude towards a healthy lifestyle in general;
- to abide by the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 and 2013;
- to enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support inside and outside school.

These aims are fulfilled through the taught curriculum, the informal curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

Specifically, the Schools' policies on tobacco, alcohol and drugs are as follows:

4. Responsibilities

Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for the implementation of the policy, for liaison with the governing body and parents, and external agencies as appropriate, and for the training and support of staff.

The Principal must ensure that all pupils are aware of the policy and its implications.

The Principal is responsible for liaison with the media when necessary.

All Staff

All members of staff must know the School's policy and seek to obtain the relevant skills and knowledge to support the policy.

The powers of members of staff relating to Search and Confiscation can be found in the Statement on Prohibited Items and a Teacher's Power to Search a Pupil (Search and Confiscation, which is contained in the Whole School Behaviour Policy).

5. Action on incidents involving nicotine

Smoking, "vaping" or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco, snus, e-cigarettes or "vapes" is prohibited when a pupil is in school (including, for the purposes of this policy, the areas around the Schools) or in school uniform.

Pupils found smoking, "vaping" or in possession of cigarettes, tobacco, snus, e-cigarettes or "vapes" can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate punishment administered. Subsequent offences will result in an escalation of sanctions. For a persistent offender the Principal reserves the right to review the pupil's membership of the School community.

6. Action on incidents involving alcohol

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol, is prohibited in school buildings or grounds (except on occasions sanctioned by the Principal). It is also prohibited to drink or be in possession of alcohol when on school outings, trips or tours, except on occasions sanctioned by the Principal.

Pupils found drinking or in possession of alcohol can expect their parents to be informed and an appropriate punishment administered. Subsequent offences may result in a fixed term exclusion. For a persistent offender the Principal reserves the right to review the pupil's membership of the Schools' community.

7. Action on incidents involving the misuse of drugs.

All cases of misuse of drugs – or suspected misuse when pupils are on the premises or under the Schools' jurisdiction – must be reported to the Principal who will consider seeking support from the appropriate bodies.

Where a pupil is found to be involved in substance misuse or possession of drugs on the premises by a member of staff, that person should inform the relevant Pastoral Head, Vice Principal (Pastoral) and Principal.

If a member of staff discovers substances which are suspected to be harmful or illegal they should:

- Ask the pupil to “hand over” the substance voluntarily in the presence of an adult witness;
- Conduct a full search of the pupil’s possessions;
- Note the time, place and circumstances when the substance came into their possession;
- Accompany the pupil to the office and summon the relevant Pastoral Head – and not allow any physical contact with other pupils;
- Hand any recovered substance into the possession of the Principal or most senior colleague available.

The incident will be investigated as soon as practically possible. The Principal may liaise with outside agencies in the course of his investigation and decision making including the police. Where it is suspected that a child may be under the influence of drugs while in school, a drugs test may be carried out as well as a full search of their possessions.

Parents of all pupils involved will be informed and their cooperation sought. The Chair of Governors or, in their absence, the Vice Chair, will be informed of the incident.

Each case will be considered separately on its merits, but the following sanctions would normally apply:

- A pupil who supplies drugs or other solvents (either personally or through a drug dealer) will be permanently excluded.
- A pupil who has a drug in his/her possession would normally be excluded for a fixed period for a first offence. The Schools will consider what counselling and other action needs to be taken before, during and after the period of exclusion. For a second offence, a pupil would normally be permanently excluded.
- For a first offence, a child under the influence of drugs in school would be sent home under supervision of a parent or guardian and an appropriate sanction implemented.

Offences outside the Schools’ jurisdiction:

If a pupil is involved in a drug-related incident outside the Schools’ jurisdiction, the Principal will assess the implications for the pupil and the Schools and determine the best course of action, which may include a drugs test and a full search of their possessions, bearing in mind the interests of the pupil and the interests of the Schools and wider community.

The Principal may liaise with outside agencies in making this decision including the police. Depending upon the seriousness of the incident, a decision will be made as to what action would be required, though exclusion would not normally be appropriate for the first outside school offence. In any event the pupil and parents would be informed of the Principal’s decision.

Confidentiality:

In managing incidents involving drugs, and in drug education lessons, teachers cannot and should not promise total confidentiality. The boundaries of confidentiality will be made clear to pupils.

If a pupil discloses information which is sensitive, not generally known, and/or which the pupil asks not to be passed on, the request will normally be honoured. Exceptions to this will be:

- When child protection issues arise.
- In order to co-operate with a police investigation
- Where there has been agreement to refer the pupil to an external agency.

Every effort will be made to seek the agreement of the pupil before further sharing of sensitive information. Where information is to be shared, this will be strictly on a need-to-know basis.

8. Other Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following policies:

Behaviour policy, which includes the Statement on Prohibited Items and a Teacher's Power to Search a Pupil (Search and Confiscation)

Smoke-Free policy

Medicines Policy

Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy

Health and Safety Policy

9. Review and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed regularly to identify whether or not the aims are being achieved.