



# St George's College

WEYBRIDGE

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE POLICY

Children face pressure to experiment with tobacco, alcohol, drugs and other substances; St George's recognises its role in educating our students so that they can make informed decisions with respect to this. Information will be disseminated to students through the PSHE programme, assemblies and lectures; there will also be opportunities for parents to learn more about substance abuse.

### SUPPORTIVE REGIME

St George's will support any student genuinely seeking help with substance abuse. A student who believes they are struggling with substance abuse, whether legal or illegal substances, should talk to a member of staff. The Deputy Head Pastoral, as Designated Safeguarding Lead, will be informed and a support plan will be put in place. It is likely that parents will be informed and relevant outside agencies may be involved, for example Catch 22 - Surrey Substance Misuse Support.

### TOBACCO and E-CIGARETTES

St George's is a non-smoking site.

St George's recognises that smoking tobacco is injurious to health and so a student may therefore not be in possession of tobacco or e-cigarettes\* when he or she is under the College's authority. This means:

- i. Throughout the school day, whether on or off the premises
- ii. Whenever involved in any activity or trip organised by the College
- iii. Whenever he or she is identifiable as a member of the College.

Failure to comply with this will result in disciplinary action.

\*E-cigarettes are intrinsically linked to smoking tobacco, hence their inclusion here.

### ALCOHOL

The following Alcohol Policy will apply to all staff and students whilst under the umbrella of St George's College; on campus or on school trips.

The consumption of alcohol is not allowed on the College campus nor during an educational visit under any circumstances for any student who is under 16 years of age. To do so will constitute a serious misdemeanour and will probably lead to suspension. Supplying alcohol to others or serious repeated drinking may lead to expulsion.

For those students who are both over 16 years of age **and** in the Sixth Form, the consumption of alcohol will only be allowed at a special College event at the supervising teacher's discretion after permission has been sought from the Deputy Head Pastoral, and will be subject to the following conditions:

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Related policies – Safeguarding Policy, Behaviour Management Policy

Author – Deputy Head Pastoral

- i. There must be direct and continuing teacher supervision of the event.
- ii. Alcohol consumption must be limited to one can/bottle of beer or one glass of wine, taken as part of a specific sit down meal.
- iii. No spirits or fortified drinks are to be consumed.
- iv. Permission for such a special event must have been sought beforehand from the DH Pastoral.
- v. Soft drink alternatives to alcohol must be provided at all such functions.
- vi. Students are not allowed to run the bar, this must be controlled by College Staff.
- vii. No student who is known to be driving is to be served alcohol.

Under no circumstance is alcohol to be brought onto the premises by a student and there should be no unsupervised drinking at College or on College trips. Staff have a duty to report any abuse of alcohol to the Deputy Head Pastoral and failure to do so will be seen as misconduct.

Staff reserve the right to refuse any student admission to any function if they believe the student has been drinking. They will also refer them to the Deputy Head Pastoral.

Students are not allowed to enter any public house during the school day.

The Headmistress or Deputy Head has the right to insist upon a medical breath test from a student suspected of drinking alcohol, subject to consent by the student. Failure to give consent for testing to establish innocence will be interpreted by the College as a sign of alcohol consumption and appropriate disciplinary sanctions will follow. A sample or test in these circumstances will not form part of the student's permanent medical record. Staff must always have a second member of staff present when testing either a staff member or a student; there are alcohol testing kits held in the Medical Centre.

Staff must be mindful of the above rules whilst attending College events or hosting guests at St George's, even if there are no students present. Abuse of alcohol at College events will be deemed unprofessional and may result in action being taken by the SLT.

## **DRUGS**

St George's College strongly disapproves of the use of all illegal drugs and the illegal supply of such substances. Legal highs produce similar effects to illegal drugs and therefore have the potential to be just as damaging. It is for this reason that St George's will treat the possession, use or supply of legal highs in a similar way to illegal substances. Similarly, performance enhancing drugs, as defined by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) Code, will also be included within the scope of this policy.

Students and parents are encouraged to share any concerns about substance abuse with the College. In order to ensure the safety of students it is important that students and parents feel able to inform the College of any concerns relating to substance abuse and therefore the College may decide to protect the identity of those raising a concern. When a concern is raised about a particular student, his/her parents will be informed of the reported concern, so that they can take appropriate measures to safeguard their child.

### **Drug testing**

As stated in the Terms and Conditions, if a concern is raised about a student using drugs, the College reserves the right, subject to the consent of the student, to medical testing by blood or urine to assess the extent of the influence of drugs on that student within school.

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Parents will be informed at the earliest time and invited to be present for the testing. If a student fails this drugs test, appropriate disciplinary action will follow (see below).

In addition, the College will carry out drugs tests (by urine) at random on a proportion of students in the Fourth Year, the Fifth Year, the Lower Sixth and the Upper Sixth. This is designed to act as a deterrent for our students, rather than as a punitive measure. Knowing there is a strong chance of being tested will empower students to say no to drugs. This will be explained to the whole student body in Assemblies in advance of the tests. We will inform parents if their child is in the random sample at the earliest opportunity. If a student fails this random drugs test, they will be offered pastoral support within school and placed on our Substance Abuse Contract (see Appendix A) and subject to further random drugs tests. If subsequent drugs tests are also failed, the student could be excluded.

Refusal to give consent to a drugs test is likely to be interpreted as confirmation of the use of drugs in the absence of any other good reason and the appropriate disciplinary action will then follow (see below).

The College may also take action to ensure the safety of that student and others. In certain circumstances, where there are reasonable grounds to do so, including the suspicion that prohibited substances may be present on the School premises, the Head may authorise a search of the School premises including by using drug 'sniffer' dogs.

### **Disciplinary Procedures**

These disciplinary procedures are based on the fact that the possession, use and distribution of drugs are illegal.

- i. Students found to be under the influence of drugs in school will face disciplinary action and may be permanently excluded (expelled).
- ii. Students found to be in possession of drugs in school, using drugs in school, or distributing drugs in school are likely to be permanently excluded (expelled) and police may be informed.
- iii. Students who are known to distribute drugs to students of St George's or to others outside school will be permanently excluded (expelled). The Police will be informed of such activities.

### **This policy should be displayed in:**

S:\ SGW Policy_and_Procedure_Index	Firefly
College website	

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## APPENDIX A: Substance Abuse Contract



# St George's College

WEYBRIDGE

**Date:**

**Student's name:**

**Tutor Group:**

1. I have read and understood the School's Substance Abuse Policy.
2. I have made a voluntary admission of having used a controlled drug or substance.
3. As an alternative to exclusion, the Headmistress has offered me a supportive regime under which:
  - 3.1. I will attend a regular one-to-one support meeting with a member of the Pastoral team.
  - 3.2. For the remainder of this term and the next three school terms, I may at any time be asked to provide a urine sample under medical supervision for analysis.
  - 3.3. If there is evidence that I am in possession of drugs in school or under the influence of drugs in school, I understand that exclusion is likely.
  - 3.4. If I am finding it difficult to avoid substance abuse, I will ask for help in school.
4. I understand that if I fail to comply with the above, or if a subsequent drugs test is positive, I would almost certainly be asked to leave St George's College.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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