WETHERBY PREPARATORY SCHOOL
MARYLEBONE

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Wetherby Preparatory School
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Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Policy

Policy reviewed by:	Lloyd Jackson
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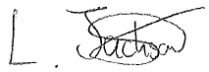
Reviewer's signature:	
Head's signature:	

Circulation: This policy is addressed to all members of staff and volunteers and is available to parents on request. It applies wherever staff or volunteers are working with the boys.

Please note: 'School' refers to Wetherby Preparatory School and 'parents' refers to parents, guardians and carers.

Policy Statement

Whilst it is recognised that younger children may be less exposed to alcohol, drugs and tobacco, we are aware of the potential dangers to all of our boys, especially those boys in the older age groups. We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community and gives all of our boys the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal use of alcohol, drugs, tobacco and other substances.

This policy is broken into two sections – alcohol and tobacco (including electronic cigarettes) and drugs.

SECTION A: ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO (INCLUDING ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES)

Education

We have a PSHE programme, running from Years 3 to 8 that covers the potential risks from excessive consumption of alcohol and the risks of smoking or using electronic cigarettes (vaping). It concentrates on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices, and explains the legal background.

Additional coverage is provided in Science lessons. We also have assemblies on the topic and, from time to time, make use of travelling workshops and road shows to cover the serious risks from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances. Boys can discuss their individual worries about drinking, smoking and vaping with their form teacher. As necessary we will discuss relevant concerns with parents and seek medical advice.

The School and School Events

We do not allow the boys to bring alcohol or tobacco (including electronic cigarettes) onto the premises, except for the delivery of alcoholic drinks offered as gifts from parents to teachers.

This rule applies to all school trips and visits, whether in this country or overseas, irrespective of whether or not boys are wearing school uniform at the time. Boys may never consume alcohol at school or at a school related event or outing.

Wetherby Preparatory School is a public place; smoking (including the use of electronic cigarettes) on the premises is, therefore, illegal for everyone, including staff and visitors.

We will from time to time offer alcoholic drinks to parents at certain events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited.

Breach of the Policy

Boys caught breaching this policy on alcohol or who are caught smoking (including vaping) can expect to be suspended and for their parents invited to the school in order to discuss the matter.

In cases considered serious, such as supplying others with alcohol, tobacco or vaping products, a boy may be permanently excluded. A boy may be referred for a session of counselling where we have reason to believe that he has issues with either alcohol or tobacco.

SECTION B: DRUGS AND DRUG TESTING

Education

The PSHE programme includes coverage of the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse. As with our related programme concerning alcohol and tobacco, it concentrates on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. It also includes an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the criminal law. The education of younger boys regarding the dangers of drug and illegal substance abuse should be especially sensitive and should normally be part of 'circle time' or other general discussion.

Our programme extends across the curriculum, involving PSHE, Science and Drama lessons. We also have assemblies on the topic and talks from the police and, from time to time, make use of travelling workshops and road shows to cover the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco. We also invite a guest speaker during the Post Common Entrance Programme to discuss drug-related issues and to give the Year 8 boys guidance regarding substance abuse.

Boys can discuss their individual worries about drugs or substances with their form tutor, PSHE teacher, the Head of Wellbeing or any other staff member they feel comfortable talking to. As necessary, we will invite parents to meetings, and are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the wellbeing of the boys.

Support

If a boy comes forward and voluntarily identifies himself as a drug user and asks for help, or if his parents or friends ask for help on his behalf, we may, depending upon the circumstances, and at the discretion of the Head, offer him the opportunity to reform his habit with the support of a drug testing programme and counselling at his parents' expense. Should it be deemed necessary, drug testing will be conducted by a clinic/hospital and will be organised by a senior member of staff in conjunction with medical advice and with parents. If a boy fails his first drug test, so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance, he will only be allowed to remain at the school on condition that he submits to regular drug testing throughout his remaining time at the school, and on the clear understanding that he will be excluded immediately upon failure of a subsequent drug test, or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way.

Investigation

We will always investigate indications of involvement in illegal drugs and substances, and we will inform parents as a matter of urgency and, where practicable, invite them into the school to discuss the matter. Questioning of a boy and searching his personal possessions will take place in the presence of his parents.

Sanctions

The normal sanction for possession of or involvement with drugs is permanent exclusion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve suspension and a final warning. Any boy found offering drugs to another boy will be permanently excluded and, following consultation with the Governors, the matter may be referred to the police.