



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 include alcohol, inhalants (volatile substances), and illegal drugs, such as cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine and heroin. This policy also includes nitrous oxide, as well as prescription drugs when they 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).

This policy aims to:

- Prevent risk to students and others by addressing misuse promptly.
- Provide avenues for students affected by substance misuse to seek help from college or external support agencies.
- Treat all cases confidentially, within the provisions of safeguarding and other legal duties.

2 Definition

Substance misuse: The use of alcohol, inhalants, illegal drugs or other substances in a manner harmful to physical or mental health, safety, relationships, or reputation. This includes misuse of prescribed drugs and legal substances used contrary to guidance. Misuse affecting the college environment or bringing its reputation into disrepute falls under this policy.

3 Policy guidelines

3.1 Zero Tolerance

Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or illegal substances on college premises or during college activities is strictly prohibited, as is the misuse of any substance as detailed above. Such actions are likely to result in disciplinary action, including exclusion.

3.2 Education and Awareness

The college fosters a culture of prevention through:

- Regular tutorials and educational sessions.
 - Awareness-raising events and campaigns
 - Workshops led by external agencies or community partnerships.
- Students are briefed on this policy and related procedures during induction and tutorials.
 - Staff are trained to be vigilant for signs of substance misuse and respond effectively via safeguarding training.

3.3 Searches and confidentiality

- Searches are conducted tactfully, with a witness present, respecting cultural and privacy concerns.

- If the college has reasonable suspicion that substance misuse has occurred, students are expected to comply with searches. Students who refuse a search may face temporary exclusion, and further disciplinary action.

3.4 Safeguarding and referrals

If students found under the influence or in possession of substances at college or during college activities:

- They will be referred to safeguarding support, with likely referral to early help and other specialist support.
- Staff will be alert to the possibility of Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) or Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) if students are found to be in possession of drugs.
- Parents/guardians will be informed if students are under 18
- Parents/guardians will be informed if students are over 18 and considered to be vulnerable or at risk of harm (and this is likely to be the case where students are intoxicated or in possession of illegal substances)

3.5 Smoking and vaping

Smoking and vaping are prohibited on college grounds to maintain a healthy environment.

3.6 Collaboration and enforcement

- The college works with local law enforcement and external agencies to address substance-related issues.
- Reports of illegal substance distribution will involve the police.

4 Annexes

Annex A: Procedures

Annex B: Useful sources of advice and information

5 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 |
|----------------|--------------|-----|-----------|--------------|--|
| June 2025 | January 2025 | N/A | N/A | October 2027 | 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)
- Confiscate any substances with a witness present and provide them to emergency personnel
- Inform a member of SLT immediately
- If a student is taken to hospital in an ambulance or receives medical attention at a hospital, parents/guardians and the police will be informed.
- 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:

- Notify the Safeguarding Team and SLT immediately.
- If a search is required, the student be asked to turn out pockets and bags and to remove their shoes. This will always be done sensitively and in the presence of a second adult witness.
- If illegal substances are involved, the Safeguarding Team and SLT will handle communication with the police and parents/guardians.
- The disciplinary process will be activated, including possible exclusion.

Preventative measures

The college may use drug detection dogs and random bag searches or searches of the person as part of its efforts to maintain a safe environment, free of intoxicating substances.

Annex B: Useful sources of advice and information

Keeping Children Safe in Education: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/keeping-children-safe-in-education--2>

Drugs A-Z list, Talk to Frank: <https://www.talktofrank.com/drugs-a-z>

Child sexual exploitation guidance for practitioners: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/child-sexual-exploitation-definition-and-guide-for-practitioners>

County Lines Toolkit for Professionals:

<https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/information/professionals/resources/county-lines-toolkit>

NSPCC When to Call the Police:

<https://www.npcc.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/publications/publications-log/2020/when-to-call-the-police--guidance-for-schools-and-colleges.pdf>

Drug and alcohol education: teacher guidance and evidence review <https://pshe-association.org.uk/drugeducation>