



Alcohol & Tobacco (to include e-cigarettes and vapes) Policy

At St Edmund's we have health education and PSHE/RSE programmes that focus upon the potential risks from excessive consumption of alcohol and risks of smoking. They concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. The programmes involve pupils of all ages and extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE, Science and Drama lessons. We also have assemblies on the topic, and from time to time make use of travelling workshops, road shows or specialist speakers/lecturers to cover the serious risks from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances.

Our Health Centre staff play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved, and will offer informed medical advice. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drinking and smoking with a member of the Pastoral Team. They can also refer themselves to the Medical Staff for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

We do not allow pupils at St Edmund's to bring alcohol, tobacco, smokeless tobacco, nicotine or e-cigarettes/vapes onto the premises, or to consume these substances on the journey to or from school. Pupils in Forms 9, 10 and 11 who are allowed out into Grayshott village at lunchtime are forbidden to visit pubs or bars, as well as from smoking, vaping or consuming alcohol. This rule applies to all school trips and visits, whether in this country or overseas, irrespective of whether or not pupils are wearing school uniform at the time. Pupils will be punished for smoking or vaping if: they are seen smoking; vaping; they are seen with a lit cigarette in their possession; they are found to have cigarettes and/or other smoking or vaping materials in their possession (including smokeless tobacco or nicotine products); they are found in the company of a pupil(s) when a smoking offence has taken place. St Edmund's school is a public place; smoking is therefore prohibited for everyone, including staff and visitors.

We offer wine to parents and guardians at certain formal events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited. We expect parents to cooperate and not permit their children to drink alcohol on these occasions. Soft drinks are always available at such events. Pupils are not allowed alcohol.

Pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol or who are caught smoking or vaping can expect to be disciplined and, in most cases, it is likely that the child will face a period of temporary exclusion

from school. Repeat offences may carry the sanction of longer periods of temporary exclusion or, ultimately, permanent exclusion. In accordance with our Exclusion Policy, parents or guardians will be invited to the school in order to discuss the matter. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling/medical support where we have reason to believe that they have issues with either alcohol or tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

SEB, HBP, JZW September 2024