



Substance Misuse & Sexual Relations Policy

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Document Quality Control

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This policy should be read in conjunction with the College’s Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Health and Medical Policy, the PSE and RSE Policy, the Anti-bullying Policy, the Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy, the Good Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy, the Conducting a Search and Use of Physical Intervention Policy and the Educational Visits Policy.

The College, in producing this policy, has taken into consideration the following guidance:

- Welsh Assembly Government – Working together to Reduce Harm: Substance Misuse Strategy for Wales
- Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Statutory Guidance and Code 2021
- Curriculum for Wales Guidance
- All Wales Practice Guide on Safeguarding Children from Child Criminal Exploitation
- All Wales Practice Guide on Safeguarding Children from Child Sexual Exploitation

Alcohol

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises.
- 1.2 In line with UK alcohol licensing law, it is illegal if you are under 18:
 - To buy or to attempt to buy alcohol
 - To drink alcohol in licensed premises (such as a pub or a restaurant)
- 1.3 In line with UK alcohol licensing law, it is illegal if you are over 18:
 - To supply, by sale or gift, alcohol to someone under the age of 18.
- 1.4 The College therefore aims to:
 - Develop knowledge and understanding about alcohol as a drug and its effects on the body via its pastoral curriculum
 - Encourage sensible, appropriate and safe attitudes to alcohol consumption
 - Allow students to practise personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations where alcohol is present
 - Educate students as to the place of alcohol in the political, social and economic environment in which it exists.
- 1.5 All pupils at the College must be aware that drinking or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited whenever under the duty-of-care of the College, including any on or off-site activity.
- 1.6 Occasionally, the College hosts events where students may consume a safe and limited amount of alcohol under the guidance of the College. At such times, the circumstances, rules and safeguarding procedures are explained to parents/guardians in advance who may withdraw consent.
- 1.7 Students found in possession of alcohol or using it, whilst under the duty-of-care of the College (as outlined in this policy) can expect to be sanctioned in line with the procedures outlined within the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy.

2.0 Consumption of Alcohol on College Trips or on Leave (under the duty-of-care of the College)

- 2.1 No alcohol should be consumed by pupils on educational trips.
- 2.2 If the rules are broken, the College will apply sanctions in line with the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy. The house staff and SLT must be informed of any incident occurring on a trip.

- 2.3 Being over 18 on such trips does not exempt a student from college rules; nor does it negate our responsibilities for those students.
- 2.4 All staff, especially Boarding and House Staff, must be alert to the risks posed by students visiting pubs and off-licences in town, or by asking older students to purchase alcohol for them, when on Leave and under the duty-of-care of the College. We must be exceptionally vigilant over students bringing alcohol back on site from home, shops or pubs. This is taken into consideration when trip risk assessments are carried out and students are carefully monitored by staff and room checks are undertaken, as necessary, to ensure that College policy is being adhered to. Where needed and necessary, the College procedure on conducting a search will be followed, as outlined in the College Conducting a Search and Use of Physical Intervention Policy.
- 2.5 Any student who has consumed alcohol will also be supported by the College and will be offered pastoral support via the College's health and wellbeing services.

3.0 Sanctions

- 3.1 Any student who brings alcohol onto the College site (boarding house, day house or any part of the site) will be sanctioned in line with the College Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy.
- 3.2 Any student who procures alcohol for another student will be disciplined in line with the College sanctions system, as outlined in the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy.
- 3.3 Alcohol brought on to the site as a gift (or as a prize etc) should be declared and passed on to house staff for safe keeping.
- 3.4 Any student who consumes alcohol on site or elsewhere whilst under the duty-of-care of the College (other than under circumstances outlined in 1.4, above) will be sanctioned in line with procedures noted within the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy.
- 3.5 Any student who abuses any of the strict regulations of College events where alcohol is permitted (as per 1.4 above) e.g. by drinking alcohol 'purchased' by another; using another's ticket to 'purchase' alcohol; consuming any alcohol before a social event etc, will be sanctioned in line with the Behaviour, Rewards & Sanctions Policy
- 3.6 Any student who is sanctioned from College for an alcohol related offence will attend a meeting with the Wellbeing Officer and receive support/advice from the College.
- 3.7 Sanctions will be communicated in writing. Parents/guardians will also be directly informed of any sanction given to their son/daughter and the reasons for the issuing of such sanctions will be outlined clearly.
- 3.8 In certain circumstances, as outlined in the Behaviour, Rewards & Sanctions Policy, alcohol misuse can lead to permanent exclusion from the College.

Smoking

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It is the policy of Cardiff Sixth Form College to discourage smoking for health reasons. In addition, matters of fire safety, litter and expense combine to make this a habit that will not be tolerated amongst members of the College.
- 1.2 The College informs all its students about the dangers of smoking through its PSE programme and the college medical team will be available to make appointments with any students who wish to gain information and guidance regarding smoking cessation.
- 1.3 Parents of students who smoke are also advised to arrange appointments for their children with a GP who will advise on how best to break the smoking habit. The College will be happy to make similar arrangements for boarding students. In addition to this the College actively promotes awareness days and information on both local and national external organisations is given to pupils.
- 1.4 Students discovered to be smoking, in possession of cigarettes, purchasing cigarettes for others or attempting to sell cigarettes will be sanctioned in line with the disciplinary policy as outlined within the Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy.

2.0 Cigarettes and E-Cigarettes/Vapes

- 2.1 Cardiff Sixth Form College treats E-cigarettes/vapes in the same way as conventional cigarettes. Smoking substances and paraphernalia of any kind are not allowed in college buildings, boarding houses or whenever under the duty-of-care of the College. The same disciplinary sanctions will apply to students whether smoking/vaping or found in possession of cigarettes, E-cigarettes/vapes.
- 2.2 Clarification:
 - 2.2.1 A 'smoking offence' is defined as follows:
 - Smoking/vaping
 - Being in possession of smoking/vaping materials
 - Being with others caught smoking
 - Buying or attempting to purchase smoking/vaping materials
 - Offering, selling or attempting to offer/sell smoking/vaping materials

Drugs

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Under the Misuses of Drugs Act 1971, it is generally illegal to possess or supply a drug covered by the Act, unless authorised (e.g. possessing drugs prescribed for personal medical use). Solvents are dangerous substances as well. Under the Intoxicating Substances (Supply) Act 1965, it is illegal for anyone to supply or offer to supply a substance if they know or believe that the substance being supplied will be inhaled by a person under 18 for the purpose of intoxication. Paradoxically it is not actually an offence to inhale solvents for the purpose of intoxication. However, the police are normally able to deal with such persons under public order provisions.
- 1.2 Cardiff Sixth Form College aims:
 - To ensure that it is free from illegal drugs (and solvents)
 - To educate students on the effects of drugs (and solvents) on the mind and body through the PSE programme, guest speakers and through the college medical team
 - To provide opportunities for students to practice the personal and social skills and the strategies needed to deal with situations involving drugs
 - To promote the individual's self-confidence, self-esteem and self-worth, the better to resist the temptation of drug use.
 - To explain the legal situation regarding the use and misuse of drugs
 - To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support
 - To enable parents to acquire knowledge and support
- 1.3 Any student involved in consuming, possessing or distributing illegal drugs when he/she is under the College's duty-of-care can expect to be permanently excluded from College and the police informed.
- 1.4 In addition, where it has been brought to the attention of the Principal that a student has been formally cautioned by the police for the possession of an illegal drug when not under the duty-of-care of the College, the College reserves the right to sanction the student which may include permanent exclusion.
- 1.5 College staff are aware of issues surrounding county lines and information and guidance on county lines, including links to the All Wales Practice Guide on Child Criminal Exploitation can be found on the staff safeguarding website
- 1.6 Staff are aware of the indicators of Child Criminal Exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation which includes but is not limited to:
 - Pupils who go missing and are subsequently found in areas away from their home
 - Pupils who have been/who are a victim or perpetrator of serious violence

- Pupils who are involved in receiving requests for drugs via a phone line, moving drugs, handing over and collecting money for drugs
- Pupils who are exposed to techniques such as plugging
- Pupils who are in debt
- Pupils that may be found in accommodation that they have no connection with

2.0 Possession of an illegal drug

- 2.1 If any student is found in possession of a suspicious substance or item, it will be taken from them. Measures on conducting a search can be found within the College's Conducting a Search and Use of Physical Intervention Policy. The substance will then be gathered in an evidence bag and will be taken immediately to a member of SLT and/or Head of Boarding.
- 2.2 A safeguarding concern form will be completed by the staff member who initially dealt with the student. The student will be isolated immediately and their parents contacted.
- 2.3 The Principal/and Vice Principal will be informed straightaway. The student will then be interviewed by the Vice Principal or a senior member of staff whom they appoint. The nature of the substance will be investigated and the illegal drug can be handed over to the police who may wish to take further action/and or involve drug testing agencies.
- 2.4 The Vice Principal or nominated member of SLT will inform the Principal of the facts, evidence and any other disclosures in order for a decision to be made as to next steps.

3.0 Drug Testing

- 3.1 Where there is concern about a student regarding the misuse of drugs, the college may suggest to parents/guardians that a drug test is carried out.
- 3.2 Should this be the case, then full consultation and agreement from parents/guardians and the student/s concerned will be carried out.

Sexual Relations

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The College encourages positive and friendly relationships between students but it has a responsibility to draw the line at sexual relationships between the students in its care. The college has a duty to educate pupils on Sex Education in light of Relationships and Sexual Education frameworks to prepare them for their life outside of College. As such, group sessions on these topics are carried out and are overseen by the college medical team. Please refer to the PSE and RSE Policies for further information on this.

- 1.2 The law does not permit sexual intercourse in which one or both partners is under the age of 16; the College rules go further.
- 1.3 Any sexual activity between students of whatever age, either on College premises or at times when the College has the prime responsibility for the students concerned, will be treated as a Category 2 or Category 3 offence – this to be determined by the Principal.
- 1.4 Whilst the welfare of both parties will be the immediate priority, and the Medical centre will take the lead in this respect, it is likely that the parents of those involved will be invited to find an alternative school for their son/daughter.
- 1.5 Sexual violence and sexual harassment between students is taken extremely seriously, and any concerns regarding safeguarding of pupils with regards to sexual relations should be referred immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Person in line with the College Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and Peer on Peer Abuse Policy.
- 1.6 If there is evidence or concern of peer-on-peer abuse, physical or sexual abuse or FGM then staff and students must follow the full procedures for these as outlined in the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the Peer-on-Peer Abuse Policy.