



CHURCHER'S COLLEGE

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY (PUPILS)

SENIOR SCHOOL, JUNIOR SCHOOL AND NURSERY (INCLUDING EYFS)

March 2025

SMOKING, ALCOHOL AND DRUGS POLICY

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Authorised by	Deputy Head (Pastoral)
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Date of next review	January 2026 or earlier as required

1 Introduction

- 1.1 This is a whole school policy and applies to all sections of Churcher's College, including the Senior School, Junior School and Nursery (including Early Years Foundation Stage). Throughout this policy document, the terms 'the School' and 'Churcher's College' refer to all sections of Churcher's College, unless otherwise specified. In this policy, references to pupils means all pupils of Churcher's College, including Sixth Form students.
- 1.2 **Purpose:** The purpose of this policy is to promote the safety, welfare and good physical and mental health of pupils. The school educates pupils to understand the effect and risks associated with smoking, alcohol and drugs in relation to their health, well-being and the law and that the use of illegal drugs is or may be a criminal offence and will be harmful to their health, integrity, independence, opportunities and careers as well as damaging the society in which they live.
- 1.3 This policy has been drafted with regard to the following guidance:
- 1.3.1 *Use of Reasonable Force (July 2013), DfE*
 - 1.3.2 *Searching, screening and confiscation (July 2022), DfE*
 - 1.3.3 *DfE and ACPO drug advice for schools (September 2012)*

2 Pastoral support and educating pupils

- 2.1 The School's policy is to provide an overall health education programme that both makes children aware of the dangers of smoking, alcohol and drugs and teaches them how to say "no". The depth of discussion and information available is different at the different age groups. The School's health education programme has been developed so that it is age appropriate and delivered in a variety of ways. The programme currently includes the use of:
- PSHE lessons, lectures and presentations
 - Academic subject lessons
 - Informal discussions with Form Tutors and other staff
- 2.2 The School encourages pupils to discuss any anxieties that they may have about tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substances in confidence (subject to safeguarding considerations) with a member of staff or the School Nurse, who can offer relevant medical advice and/or refer to appropriate external support.
- 2.3 Staff should be alert to the signs and symptoms which may be indicators of substance misuse. For example, pupils may display physical symptoms (eg bloodshot or red eyes, neglect of personal appearance) and/or behavioural changes (eg unexplained periods of moodiness, depression, anxiety or irritability, decline in academic performance, change in peer group, loss of motivation and reluctance to participate in school activities).

3 Smoking, vaping and oral nicotine products

- 3.1 Churcher's College is a non-smoking site.
- 3.2 Pupils are prohibited from smoking (to include vaping and the smoking of e-cigarettes) or using any other smoking related product such as nicotine substances (eg "snus" or nicotine

pouches) on all School premises (including School vehicles) at any time, whilst travelling to and from School and on School trips (including fixtures or any other events when representing the school).

- 3.3 Smoking materials and smoking related products (including e-cigarettes, vapes and nicotine substances such as snus and nicotine pouches) are prohibited items at Churcher's College and must not be brought into School; any found will be confiscated in accordance with Appendix 1 of the Senior School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions policy.
- 3.4 Pupils are prohibited from supplying any smoking materials or smoking related products to another pupil.
- 3.5 The School takes a proactive approach to the implementation of its policy on smoking. To support this approach, environmental sensors have been installed in strategic locations, such as toilets, in the Senior School. The sensor can detect vaping and smoking events in real-time, thus enabling the swift identification and investigation of contraventions of the smoking policy.
- 3.6 **Sanctions:** Whilst the precise details of an incident will influence the School's response, a pupil who is found smoking on School premises, is suspected of doing so, or who contravenes the School's smoking policy in any way is likely to encounter the following sanctions in the Senior School:
- A first offence is a Deputy Head's Detention
 - A second offence will result in a further Deputy Head's Detention and a meeting between parents and the Deputy Head (Pastoral)
 - A third offence will lead to a pupil being suspended
 - Further offences may result in the pupil's permanent exclusion from School

In the Junior School, any pupil who contravenes the School's smoking policy will be dealt with in accordance with the Culture and Ethos Policy.

4 Alcohol

- 4.1 Alcohol means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, possessing, consuming and supplying alcohol.
- 4.2 **School rules - alcohol:**
- 4.2.1 Pupils are not permitted to bring alcohol onto the School premises or to be impaired by alcohol while on School premises or in the care of the School.
- 4.2.2 Pupils are not permitted to frequent public houses (even if they are not consuming alcohol), off-licences or to drink or purchase alcohol whilst off the premises in school uniform or during the hours of the school day.
- 4.2.3 Pupils are forbidden from bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

- 4.3 **School events:** Certain school events provide a controlled environment in which pupils over the age of 16 years may be permitted to consume a limited amount of alcohol with a meal, under the supervision of School staff. Examples of such events are the Prefects' Dinner, the Sixth Form Ball and the Trafalgar Night Dinner. The event must be sanctioned in advance by the Headmaster. Under no other circumstances are pupils permitted to possess or consume alcohol on the School site.
- 4.4 **School trips:** If School staff permit them to do so, pupils over the age of 18 years may have one glass of wine or one pint of beer/lager/cider, either pre-dinner or with their evening meal, provided that this is under the direct supervision of School staff. Further alcohol consumption should not be permitted. For some trips it may be inappropriate for any alcohol to be consumed by pupils; this is entirely at the trip leader's discretion. For the avoidance of doubt, pupils must at all times abide by the law of the country being visited and the protocol of the organisation through which the trip is being organised. Pupils should be aware that, whilst on a school trips, they are representatives of the School and are expected to uphold the good reputation of the School at all times. A failure to do so may be treated as a disciplinary matter and the usual sanctions will apply
- 4.5 **Sanctions:** Pupils who contravene the School's policy on alcohol will be dealt with in accordance with the Senior School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy (the Culture and Ethos Policy in the Junior School).

5 **Drugs**

- 5.1 For the purpose of this policy, drugs covers controlled drugs and the paraphernalia of drugs, psychoactive substances or substances intended to resemble drugs, or "legal" or prescription drugs which can be obtained from a chemist shop, performance enhancing drugs, anabolic steroids, glue, energy gum, energy drinks and other substances held or supplied in each case for purposes of misuse. Mood-enhancing products, such as Nitrous Oxide, "Poppers" and other so-called "legal highs" or new psychoactive substances are absolutely forbidden. Solvents or aerosols must not be inhaled. Stimulants such as "Pro Plus" are also not permitted.

If staff are unable to identify the legal status of a drug, it should be treated as a controlled drug. This policy covers the possession, use and supply of such substances.

5.2 **School rules - drugs:**

- 5.2.1 Pupils are forbidden from any possession, use or supply of drugs and substances at any time, either at School or away from School.
- 5.2.2 Pupils are forbidden from bringing the School into disrepute for any reason associated with drugs or substances, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

5.3 **Sanctions:**

- 5.3.1 Any pupil supplying drugs must expect to be permanently excluded from the School even if he/she is about to sit public examinations.

5.3.2 Any pupil using or possessing drugs or substances must also expect to be permanently excluded from School.

5.3.3 Permanent exclusion is not an automatic sanction applied to all drug related incidents; the School recognises that there are degrees of offences and will take into account the individual circumstances of each case before a decision is taken.

A pupil may be required to agree to a testing regime as a condition of them remaining in the School.

5.4 **Review:** If the pupil is excluded from School either on a permanent or fixed-term basis, he/she and his/her parents have the right to request a review of the decision in accordance with the School's Exclusion Policy.

6 Searching and confiscation

6.1 Before any search is undertaken a pupil will usually be asked to consent. However, the Headmaster and staff authorised by the Headmaster may search a pupil without his/her consent if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that the pupil has tobacco, alcohol, drugs or substances in their possession.

6.2 The School's policy on searching and confiscation will be followed (see Appendix 1 of the Senior School Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy).

7 Police involvement

7.1 The School may contact the police if the School becomes aware of information relating to an incident involving drugs or substances.

7.2 If the School seizes a controlled drug, the drug may be destroyed if there is good reason to do so. Otherwise, the School will deliver it to the police as soon as reasonably practicable. In other cases, the School may decide to request the involvement of the police from the outset.

8 Testing

8.1 If there is reason to suspect that a pupil has been involved with drugs or substances or where drugs abstinence is being monitored, he/she may be subject to a drugs testing regime. If there is suspicion of possession, usage or supply, testing may be a condition of remaining in the School or, in consultation with parents, a testing service may be offered but not a required condition.

8.2 Reason to suspect the use of drugs or substances may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.

8.3 If testing is not a condition of remaining in the School, parents may be offered the opportunity to receive information of the outcome of testing confidentially, with details not being passed to the School.

8.4 **Biological sample:** A pupil suspected of illegal involvement with drugs or substances may be asked to give a biological sample (saliva, hair or urine) for analysis. The reason for this policy is:

- To deter breaches of school discipline
 - To identify users
 - To absolve those who have been wrongly suspected
- 8.5 **Informed consent:** The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives his/her informed consent in writing. The member of staff leading the investigation will determine whether or not the pupil is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of a medically qualified member of staff. Consent from parents will also be sought as long as the rights to medical confidentiality are not compromised.
- 8.6 **Notifying parents:** Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a biological sample is taken, to notify the pupil's parent, guardian or educational guardian of the requirement for the biological sample and the reasons for that requirement. However, a test will not be delayed unreasonably in order to provide this notification.
- 8.7 **Refusal:** If a pupil refuses to provide a biological sample he/she will be asked to say why he/she has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from the pupil's response and general demeanour. If a parent's consent is required and they refuse to consent to their child providing a biological sample, the School may draw inferences from the pupil's general demeanour.
- 8.8 **Procedure:** The biological sample will be taken under medical supervision. A member of the school staff will be present. Every effort will be made to respect the pupil's privacy and dignity.
- The School will follow standard good practice, including the following:
- 8.8.1 care will be taken to make as certain as possible that the sample provided is genuine and uncontaminated.
- 8.8.2 the pupil will be asked to sign to confirm that the specimens are his/hers.
- 8.8.3 the pupil will be asked to sign a form to confirm that he/she is satisfied with the collection procedure and consents to the results of the test being made available to the Headmaster and/or the Deputy Head (Pastoral).
- 8.9 **Medical record:** The outcome of the test (whether non-negative or negative), will not form part of the pupil's permanent medical record.
- 8.10 **Outcome:** When the School receives the laboratory report:
- 8.10.1 reasonable attempts will be made to notify a parent by telephone or email;
- 8.10.2 if the result is negative, any second sample will be destroyed immediately;
- 8.10.3 if the result is non-negative, a second sample will be made available for independent analysis.

8.11 **Subsequent action:** The School will treat a non-negative test, although not infallible, as evidence that the pupil has been using drugs or substances. Where there is a non-negative test, or where the pupil refuses to provide a sample to be tested, a meeting will be arranged.

8.11.1 the pupil will be asked to attend a meeting with the Headmaster or, in his absence, the Deputy Head (Pastoral) (or the Head of the Junior School in the case of Junior School pupils). The pupil's parents or a member of School staff chosen by the pupil to assist him/her may also attend the meeting.

8.11.2 all relevant evidence, including the non-negative test result where applicable, will be put to the pupil and he/she will be invited to respond.

8.11.3 the pupil's response will be heard and considered and further enquiries will be made if necessary.

8.11.4 when the investigation has been concluded, outside of the meeting if necessary, the Headmaster will, on the balance of probabilities, make a finding of fact based on evidence and supported by reasons.

9 **Confidentiality**

Sensitive personal information about pupils is disclosed only on a "need to know" basis with careful attention to pupil's rights and needs.

10 **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The School's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Procedures will be followed if there are safeguarding concerns (this may include incidences of parental drug or alcohol abuse).

11 **Further information and advice**

Useful sources of advice and support include the following:

Drugs FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice – 24 hour helpline: 0300 1236600

www.talktofrank.com

Smoking Information and guidance is available on the NHS Better Health website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>

Alcohol Drinkline is a free and confidential helpline for anyone who is concerned about their own or someone else's drinking - 0300 1231110 (weekdays 9am – 8pm, weekends 11am - 4pm)