



**THE  
CHORISTER  
SCHOOL**  
DURHAM CATHEDRAL

# **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND SUBSTANCE/DRUG ABUSE POLICY**

May 2018  
Policy on Website

**The Chorister School tolerates neither the misuse of drugs or alcohol by members of the school nor the illegal supply of these substances.**

## **1. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY**

We do not allow the pupils at The Chorister School to bring alcohol or tobacco onto the premises. 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. E-cigarettes and vaping are treated in the same way as other forms of smoking.

The Chorister School is a public place; smoking is therefore illegal for everyone, including staff and visitors. The site ban includes all of The College and our playing fields.

We will offer alcohol to parents and guardians at certain formal events. We trust that parents will cooperate and not permit their children to drink on these occasions

Pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol or who are caught smoking can expect to be suspended and for their parents or guardians invited to the school in order to discuss the matter. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling where we have reason to believe that he or she has issues with either alcohol or tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

The Chorister School may contact the manager of any establishment found to be active in selling alcohol, tobacco or tobacco products to under age pupils and the Police may also be informed.

### RELATED POLICIES

- Safeguarding Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Rewards, Discipline and Sanctions Policy
- Pastoral Policy
- Substance/Drug Abuse Policy

## 2. SUBSTANCE/DRUG ABUSE POLICY

At The Chorister School the taking, possessing or dealing in drugs is forbidden.

### **Definition of a drug**

The Chorister School defines a drug as a substance people take to change the way they feel, think or behave.

This will include:-

- all illegal drugs,
- all legal drugs including alcohol, tobacco, volatile substances, ketamine, khat and alkyl nitrites when used improperly
- all over-the-counter drugs and prescription drugs when used improperly
- all new psychoactive substances (NPS)
- drugs which are misused to enhance performance

The Headmaster reserves the right to react to the emergence of new substances and changing circumstances as they occur, based on new definitions of drugs.

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at The Chorister School, 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 pupils the understanding and self-confidence to reject illegal drugs and substances. Staff are advised to be vigilant in recognising and responding to the symptoms of drug and substance abuse, and from time to time training may be included in the INSET programme.

### SUPPORT

In the event that a pupil should come forward and voluntarily identify himself/herself as a drug user and ask for help, [or if his/her parents or friends ask for help on his/her behalf], we may [depending upon the circumstances] and at the discretion of the Headmaster offer him/her the opportunity to reform his/her habit with the support of a drug testing programme and Counselling.

Drug testing would be conducted by a local hospital and would be organised by the Head of Pastoral Care in conjunction with the House Mothers. Full details of the arrangements would be sent to any parent or guardian. If a pupil fails his/her first drug test (so confirming usage of a banned drug or substance), he/she would only be allowed to remain at the school on condition that he/she submits to regular drug testing throughout his/her remaining time at the school, and on the clear understanding that he/she would be expelled immediately on failure of a subsequent drug test, or if there is evidence that a sample has been tampered with in any way.

### SANCTIONS

The normal sanction for possession or involvement with drugs is expulsion. Alternative sanctions, when there are mitigating circumstances, could involve suspension and a final

warning. Any pupil found offering drugs to another pupil will be expelled and, following consultation with the Governors, the matter is likely to be referred to the police.

### **3. EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

We have extensive health education and PSHCE programmes at the Chorister School that focus upon the potential short-term and long-term risks to health from drug and substance abuse, from smoking and from excessive consumption of alcohol. The programme teaches the importance for young people to make healthy, informed choices. They also include an ethical dimension, designed to instil an understanding of the importance of complying with the law. Our programmes involve all pupils and continue throughout the child's time at the school. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHCE and Science lessons for older pupils. Very occasionally the School might use travelling workshops to cover the serious risks from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and drugs; parents would be informed.

Our House Mothers play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved in alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse, and will offer informed medical advice. Pupils can discuss their individual worries with their House Master/Mistress, Form Tutor or a member of the Pastoral Team. They can also refer to an independent listener for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or any adverse report.

At the time of devising and reviewing this policy we have had no need to investigate alcohol, tobacco or substance related incidents.

### **4. INVESTIGATION**

We will always investigate rumours about involvement with alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs and substances, including questioning a pupil, searching his/her personal possessions. We will inform parents and guardians as a matter of urgency and invite them into the school to discuss the matter.

### **5. RELATED POLICIES**

- Alcohol and Tobacco Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Rewards, Discipline and Sanctions Policy
- Pastoral Policy
- Safeguarding

### **REVIEW**

Date of review - May 2019.