



WALTHAMSTOW HALL SEVENOAKS

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY

This policy has been drawn up with regard to the Department of Education (DfE) and Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Non-Statutory Drug Advice for Schools (September 2012)

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/270169/drug_advice_for_schools.pdf and Alcohol interventions in secondary and further education NICE guideline [NG135] (August 2019) that emphasises the importance of education in leading young people to make 'healthy, informed choices.'

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policies:

- Drugs and Drug-testing policy
- Discipline and Exclusions Policy
- Behaviour Policy

Key points:

- We have extensive Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) programmes at Walthamstow Hall that focus upon the potential risks from the consumption of alcohol and risks of smoking. They concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. The programme involves pupils of all ages, throughout a pupil's time at this School. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHEE, RSE, Science and Drama lessons, for example. On occasion, we also have Assemblies on the topic and, from time to time, invite visiting speakers and groups to cover the serious risks from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances. (Please refer to our separate policy on drugs and drug testing)
- Our Medical Staff play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved, and will offer informed advice. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drinking and smoking with their tutor or member of the pastoral team. They can also refer themselves to the Medical staff for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report. We are also conscious of the importance of working together with parents in order to promote the well-being of their daughter.
- We do not allow pupils at Walthamstow Hall to bring alcohol or tobacco on to the premises, or to consume either substance on the journey to or from School. 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.
- Walthamstow Hall is a public place; smoking is therefore illegal 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. No pupil under the age of 18 is allowed any alcohol on these occasions. Soft drinks are always available at such events.

Sanctions for breaching our guidelines on alcohol or smoking:

- **SMOKING** – a pupil who smokes on School premises or on a School visit, or in School uniform, even if it is not on School premises, is in contravention of the School Code of Conduct. This will be viewed very seriously and may risk exclusion. This is at the Headmistress's discretion.
- **ALCOHOL** – a pupil who consumes alcohol on School premises or on a School visit, or in School uniform, even if not on School premises is in contravention of the School Code. The Headmistress will decide on suitable sanctions to be imposed, which may include exclusion.

In summary, pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol or who are caught smoking can expect to be suspended and for their parents to be invited into School in order to discuss the matter. The Headmistress has the final say on appropriate sanctions depending on the circumstances. Sanctions might ultimately involve permanent exclusion from the School.

This policy has regard to the guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Walthamstow Hall policies are approved, ratified and reviewed regularly by the Governing Body in the light of statutory requirements.

Reviewed May 2021
Next Review Oct 2021

Signed: Date:

Mrs J Adams
Chairman of the Governing Body