



## WALTHAMSTOW HALL SEVENOAKS

### **ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND VAPING 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](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) (<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng135/resources/alcohol-interventions-in-secondary-and-further-education-pdf-66141721030597>) 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:**

- The School has extensive Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) and Personal Social Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) programmes 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 the School. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHEE, RSE, Science and Drama lessons, for example. There are also Assemblies on the topic and, from time to time, visiting speakers and groups are invited to cover the serious risks from abuse of alcohol, tobacco and illegal substances.
- School 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. To clarify, use of electronic cigarettes, often called vaping is also covered under this policy and is included in the term smoking.
- We offer alcohol 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.

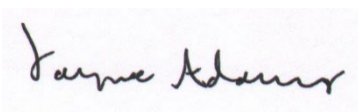
In summary, pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol or who are caught smoking can expect to be suspended and for their parents to be invited into School in order to discuss the matter. The Headmistress has the final say on appropriate sanctions depending on the circumstances. Sanctions might 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: June 2023  
Next Review: June 2024

Signed:



Date: 30 June 2023

Mrs J Adams  
Chairman of the Governing Body