Alcohol, Tobacco, Drug and Substance Abuse Policy

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<th>SMT REVIEW</th>
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<td>Last action: May 2017 by DHCC</td>
<td>Approved June 2017</td>
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<td>Next action: May 2018 by DHCC</td>
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Alcohol
Alcohol Awareness is an important dimension of Drugs Education within the school.

The School Rules and Procedures say:
“No pupil may be in possession of, or make use of any of the following: Alcoholic drink, tobacco or other drugs”.

Education forms a large part of Pangbourne’s Alcohol Policy and therefore PSHCE and Biology lessons contribute a large part of the information on offer. As well as informing the pupils of the dangers of alcohol, the College also recognises the importance of educating its pupils in the sensible consumption and appreciation of alcohol within a social context.

Alcohol should not be consumed by any pupil within the boundaries of, or whilst representing Pangbourne College. Sixth formers may be given the opportunity, within the current licensing laws and in the presence of teachers employed by Pangbourne College, to consume alcohol within a supervised social context. Indeed, it is the belief of the College that sixth form pupils should learn that the moderate consumption of alcohol has its place in our society. At all such gatherings there will be a choice of limited quantities of wine and beer, as well as soft drinks always being available.

Within the Upper Sixth, there may be the opportunity for education for responsible alcohol use through the Medway Club, subject to the current licensing laws and the strict rules of the Medway Club.

The Medway Club

- Open to members of the Upper Sixth on a Thursday evening from 20:45 until 22:15 and on some Saturday evenings.
- Food will always be served at Medway events where alcohol is available
- No drinks will be served unless responsible adults are present.
- Members are allowed up to 2 drinks and they must have agreed to a Code of Conduct.
- Abuse of the rules may lead to suspension or even expulsion from Medway.

For College Dinners and other social events e.g. PPA organised balls etc. where alcohol is to be purchased then under no circumstances may pupils under the age of 18 purchase alcohol. On such occasions it is also hoped that when parents are present that they will support the College in its aim to educate pupils in the moderate consumption of alcohol.

Should a pupil abuse alcohol when under the control of the College then the following sanctions may be applied,

- Gating.
- Discussions with parents.
- Report on File.
- Referral to HM/DHCC
Pupils can discuss their individual worries over alcohol with any member of staff within the College. They may also refer themselves to the Medical Staff and to the College Counsellor for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

Drugs and Substance Abuse

The Code of Conduct says, “We look after our health, both physical and emotional”

At Pangbourne College we take the welfare of our pupils very seriously. This policy states how we will take forward such an important issue.

The word “drugs” is used in its widest sense of non-prescribed mood-altering substances to include all drugs whose use is legal within certain limits, including tobacco and alcohol, volatile and other substances which can be used to alter mood (such as solvents and NPS¹) and all illegal drugs whose use and possession are forbidden by law. The word “misuse” applies to illegal use of drugs and the excessive use of social drugs.

Pupils are encouraged to discuss their anxieties about drugs in confidence with a member of staff or the school counsellor. Matters brought into counselling by a pupil or their parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be “ring-fenced” from disciplinary sanctions or adverse report but a pupil who is suspected of involvement with drugs outside this context will face the full disciplinary consequences.

Pangbourne College recognises the importance of education of its pupils and also the need to be vigilant, with regard to drugs. We therefore educate through PSHCE and Biology lessons, as well as drugs presentations to pupils and their parents/guardians by outside speakers. The College will also use trained search dogs, to conduct sweeps of the College at the discretion of the Headmaster.

DRUGS EDUCATION

During PSHCE and Biology as well as other areas of the curriculum we have the following objectives.

- To enable pupils to make informed choices about a healthy life-style.
- To provide opportunities for pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding about the dangers of drug misuse.
- To equip pupils with the attitudes and skills they need to avoid the misuse of drugs e.g. decision making, assertiveness training.
- To reinforce school policy on drugs.
- To reinforce information about the legal status of drugs.

¹ NPS – the generic title for new psychoactive substances
To enable any pupils who are misusing drugs or have any concern about the misuse of drugs to seek help.

**DRUGS POLICY**

The supply, possession or use of illegal drugs by members of the College is unacceptable and not permitted. The same applies to the possession of material related to drugs consumption.

(This refers to illegal drugs; performance enhancing drugs, glue and other substances used for abuse and is referred to as ‘drugs’ for the remainder of this document)

Whilst maintaining a clear policy of prohibition, as outlined above, with consequent sanctions, the College is committed to providing its pupils with drugs education and also with pastoral support. In the event of any of the above being breached then the College may offer confidential support, which will aim to rehabilitate and to counsel.

In the event of a breach of the College rules, suspicion of involvement in drugs or identification by a search dog then parents will be informed by the Headmaster before any action is taken.

The College reserves the right, as per the Terms and Conditions of the College, to test pupils who are suspected of involvement in drugs. The cost of a positive test will be passed onto the parents of the pupil and the following sanctions may then be applied:

**Sanctions**

- Any pupil involved in the consumption or possession of drugs may be expelled (Involvement with hard drugs or supplying drugs are considered to be aggravating features)
- For drugs related offences the Headmaster may decide a period of suspension to be more appropriate

**Support**

- If re-admitted to the College, offenders will be enrolled on to the College Drugs Testing Programme for the duration of their stay at the College. Pastoral support will be offered and confidentiality will be ensured.

- Pupils may be enrolled on the Drugs Testing Programme on a voluntary basis at either their or their parents’ request or again pastoral support and confidentiality will be provided. If pupils come forward of their own free will then the College may decide, depending upon circumstances, that neither of the first two sanctions should be enforced
College Drugs Testing Programme

The pupils enrolled on the College Drugs Testing Programme are:

- Those readmitted to the college
- Those pupils about whom there are pastoral concerns
- Those pupils who have requested to be enrolled.

The programme aims to offer:

- Pastoral support and confidentiality
- Counselling
- Professional advice from healthcare professionals
- Random drug testing, with the cost being borne by the parents

Anyone who fails a drug test, whilst on the programme, is then liable to expulsion.

Tobacco

Pangbourne College is committed to educating pupils about the dangers of smoking. Pupils must not smoke whilst in the School’s care e.g. on trips, or in circumstances where they are identified as part of the school community e.g. on the way to or from school.

The School Rules and Procedures say:

“No pupils may be in possession of, or make use of any of the following: Alcoholic drink, tobacco or other drugs”.

It should also be noted that Pangbourne College is a designated non-smoking site.

Sanctions

The following sanctions may be exercised:

- Referral to HOM or senior member of staff.
- Letter home to parents and report on file.
- Gating.
- Working parties or College Punishment

Whilst each individual case will be decided on its own merits with the aim of educating and encouraging the individual to stop smoking, the following tariff provides a guideline:

- For a first offence, a letter home and a formal sanction, such as College Punishment
- For a second offence, an interview with the DHCC, who will contact parents
- For a third offence within a calendar year, referral to the Headmaster; a period of suspension can be expected.
The College recognises that persistent offenders may have formed an addiction to smoking both in and out of school. Therefore the following procedures may also be applied.

- Referral to the Health Centre for support and enrolment on a ‘smoking cessation course’.
- Discussion of strategies to help give up.
- Parental involvement, where appropriate.

If an individual is found to have sold tobacco to other pupils, then this individual may be suspended. In the College’s experience there is a link between items, such as loose rolling tobacco, cigarette papers and filter tips and potential substance abuse e.g. cannabis. Therefore, any pupil found in possession of any of these items can expect to be sent for a drugs test, at their parents’ expense.