

# **King Edward VI High School for Girls**

## **Alcohol and Tobacco Policy**

## **ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO POLICY**

We have an extensive PDM programme at KEHS that focuses upon the potential risks from excessive consumption of alcohol and risks of smoking. We concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. The programme involves girls from Year 8 upwards. The subject is also covered in other areas of the curriculum, including Science lessons. Pupil planners contain advice and contact numbers of confidential help lines and web sites connecting to external specialists, such as Childline, Kidscape and Samaritans.

Girls can discuss any individual worries about drinking and smoking with their Form Tutor or any other member of staff. They can also be referred to the school doctor, for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

We do not allow girls at KEHS to bring alcohol or tobacco onto 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 (but see below). If there is a rumour or suspicion that alcohol or tobacco has been brought onto school premises or to a school trip, the school may conduct a search of the girl's locker, bag or personal possessions (two members of staff would always be present). The search would be carried out in accordance with the school's Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

KEHS is a public place; smoking is therefore illegal for everyone, including staff and visitors.

We will offer wine to parents and guardians at certain formal events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited. We believe that pupils in their final two years at the school should learn that the moderate consumption of alcohol has its place in our civilisation when accompanied by food and lively conversation. We therefore offer limited quantities of wine (but never spirits) to girls in Years 12 and 13 on set occasions (for example Bucks Fizz at our leavers' breakfast on their last morning of the school year) and under the supervision of a member of staff. Soft drinks are always available at such events. Younger pupils are not allowed alcohol.

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

*Reviewed September 2017 (to be reviewed September 2018)*

*The Vice Principal (Pastoral) is responsible for the monitoring and review of the Alcohol and Tobacco Policy and reports to the Principal.*

*The implementation and review of the school's Alcohol and Tobacco Policy and all curriculum issues are presented to the Education Committee of the ISGB.*