



REIGATE GRAMMAR SCHOOL VIETNAM

Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco/Vaping Policy

Policy Author:	Educational Leadership Team
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Introduction

Drug and alcohol use and misuse have become increasingly common in society, and the pressure on pupils to be involved is now substantial. As part of our responsibility to the pupils and to society, the School recognises the need to:

- prepare and equip pupils for life in an alcohol and drug-using society;
- deal with a broad range of alcohol and drug related situations and incidents which may occur in the life of our pupils and others involved in the life of the School;
- teach pupils how to use legal drugs such as alcohol responsibly.

The aim of this policy is to outline the school's approach to all drugs, namely:

- controlled (illegal) drugs;
- legal drugs, including alcohol, tobacco, vaping, over-the-counter and prescription drugs.

1. Controlled (illegal) drugs

The school's policy is that Reigate Grammar School Vietnam should be free from controlled (illegal) drugs. We believe that involvement (possession, consumption, sale) with controlled (illegal) drugs is always wrong and it strictly prohibited for the following reasons:

- It is illegal. Young people involved with illegal drugs run the risk of obtaining a criminal conviction which will affect employment prospects throughout their lives;
- Drugs have harmful physical side-effects. Some of these are unpredictable and fairly immediate and account for a number of premature deaths amongst young people each year; all are now associated with longer term health problems;
- A small number of young people quickly develop some form of dependency on drugs;
- Involvement in drug culture tends to draw young people away from more worthwhile activities and often results in a falling away of academic performance;
- Involvement with controlled (illegal) drugs is damaging to the school community as a whole.

Parents should be aware of the particular dangers of allowing young people to attend parties which are not supervised by adults.

2. Legal Drugs

a. **Tobacco/Vaping**

- The school operates a no smoking and no vaping policy at all times throughout the Campus and all its buildings and grounds as well as on school trips and visits.
- Any pupil found to be smoking or vaping or to possess or be selling any related equipment are committing a serious breach of school rules and are liable to a period of suspension.
- This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents, volunteers, contractors and visitors.

b. **Alcohol**

- Pupils who are selling, in the possession of alcohol, or are under the influence of alcohol, on school campus or under the jurisdiction of the school (i.e. school trips), are committing a serious breach of school rules and are liable to a period of suspension or expulsion.
- No pupil or staff member, including those of legal age, should visit licensed premises during school hours.

c. **Solvents**

- Misuse of solvents will be treated as for controlled drugs above.
- Some ordinary substances lend themselves to misuse and therefore need to be carefully stored or managed.
- Solvent substances in classrooms and labs are stored securely in line with UK COSHH & appropriate VN regulations.

Any pupil found to be involved (possession, consumption, sale) with illegal or other harmful drugs while under school jurisdiction either on or off school premises can expect to be excluded from school and may subsequently have educational provisions withdrawn depending on the circumstances. The School reserves the right to inform the police.

d. **Medication**

- Asthma inhalers are kept by pupils for easy and immediate access. Spare inhalers are kept in the Medical Room and, where possible, at specified points around the site.
- Medicines that need to be taken by pupils during the school day are to be kept in the Medical Room.
- Special arrangements are made for pupils who suffer from serious medical conditions which require urgent or specialist care.
- Anaphylaxis kit: this is kept in the Medical Room.

3. **Drugs, Substance, Tobacco, Vaping and Alcohol Education**

The aim of our drug education, as part of our PSHE programme is to equip pupils with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to be in a position to make informed choices and to prevent or reduce the harmful consequences of drug misuse.

Objectives:

- To provide accurate information about drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, vaping and alcohol and the law relating to them.
- To increase understanding about the implications and possible consequences of use and misuse of drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, vaping and alcohol.
- To provide the opportunity to examine attitudes and values towards drug, tobacco/vaping and alcohol use.
- To identify sources of appropriate personal support.

This education is provided through the school's PSHE programme, and also through the science curriculum. Visiting speakers (e.g. health specialists) and our School Nurse form a valuable part of the drugs, illegal substances, tobacco, vaping and alcohol education programme. Further details of the programme are available from the Pastoral Leaders.

Parents are also given the opportunity to find out about the school's drug and alcohol policy through this policy and through attendance at the relevant Parent workshops.

4. **Dealing with Drug-Related Incidents**

The School reserves the right to search a pupil, their bag, lockers and other possessions or require them to take a drugs test at any time. Any pupil found to be involved with illegal or other harmful drugs while under

school jurisdiction either on or off school premises can expect to be excluded from school and may subsequently have educational provisions withdrawn depending on the circumstances. The School reserves the right to inform the police.

However, the School considers each drug related incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses is necessary to deal with incidents. It considers carefully the implication of any action it takes and seeks to balance the interests of the pupils involved, other school pupils and the local community.

- Sanctions include withdrawal of privileges, detentions, fixed-term exclusions, and the option of having educational provisions withdrawn for more serious drug related incidents.
- Other pastoral care includes , referral to outside agencies for counselling, behaviour contracts (including the willingness to submit to random drug testing and have bag/locker searched), referral to outside agencies for further drug education.

The management of drug-related incidents is coordinated through the Head of section, in conjunction with relevant Pastoral Leaders and form tutors.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's terms & conditions and all other School policies and procedures, in particular:

- the section's Behaviour/Wellbeing Policy
- Exclusions Policy
- Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy