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Dunottar School

Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Substance Abuse and Smoking

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DUNOTTAR SCHOOL POLICY ON ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND SMOKING

For the purposes of clarity, we have split this document up into three parts relating specifically to Alcohol, Drugs and Substance Abuse and Tobacco.

ALCOHOL

Alcohol plays a part in the life of many adults and issues relating to alcohol, of course, feature a great deal in society. In this context it is not surprising that many teenagers choose to consume alcohol and to engage in experimentation related to it. At Dunottar we seek to adopt a clear strategy relating to alcohol.

Dunottar School's aims with regards to alcohol are:

- To provide accurate information relating to alcohol use and abuse.
- To enable pupils to make sensible decisions and informed choices, including the choice of abstinence, the benefits of moderate consumption at an appropriate time and the dangers of excess, based on their understanding of the use and abuse of alcohol.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support if they need guidance in relation to alcohol.
- To provide clear information about rules relating to access to alcohol and the consequences of any breach.

Drinking, or being in possession of alcohol is prohibited:

- in school buildings or grounds (except on occasions sanctioned by the Headmaster).
- when under the authority of the school, in public houses and other licensed premises and whenever prohibited by law.
- whilst on school outings and trips (except on occasions sanctioned by the Headmaster).

Pupils found in possession of alcohol, or using it, whilst under the authority of the School can expect to be suspended from school.

Breathalyser

The school reserves the right to breathalyse a pupil if there is concern about whether they have been consuming alcohol or in order to clarify how much alcohol has been consumed.

ILLEGAL DRUGS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The supply, possession or use of illegal drugs by members of Dunottar School is not permitted. (This refers to illegal drugs, performance enhancing drugs, glue and other substances used for abuse including those highlighted in The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016. It also refers to prescription drugs obtained otherwise than through a legitimate prescription) and is referred to as “drugs” in the remainder of this document.

Whilst maintaining a clear policy of prohibition, as outlined above, with consequent sanctions, the School is committed to providing its pupils with drugs education and also with pastoral support.

Dunottar School’s aims with regards to drugs are:

- To provide accurate information relating to drugs and the dangers involved.
- To enable pupils to make sensible decisions and informed choices.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support if guidance is needed.
- To provide clear information about the law and rules relating to drugs.
- To make it clear to pupils and parents the consequences of any breach of the rules on drugs.

Sanctions

Dunottar considers each drug related incident individually and recognises that a variety of responses is necessary to deal with incidents. Any pupil involved in the supply of drugs can expect to be expelled. Any pupil involved in the taking of or possession of drugs can expect to be suspended or expelled depending upon the severity and nature of the offence.

For less serious offences, the Headmaster may decide to suspend the pupil from school and subsequently readmit them back into school after enrolling them on the School’s Drugs Testing Programme. For those students, Dunottar would also encourage visits to the in-house counsellor or visits to outside agencies for further drug education.

Drugs Testing

Certain pupils may be enrolled on the School’s Drugs Testing Programme. These pupils will include those readmitted to the School in circumstances outlined above. The School may require any pupil about whom there are suspicions of involvement in a drugs related incident or drugs taking to submit to drugs testing, with the consent of the relevant pupil and parents.

SMOKING & VAPING

Dunottar School operates a clear policy prohibiting the consumption, possession or purchase of tobacco or vaping and vaping equipment. The School adopts a combination of education and sanctions in order to discourage smoking. This policy may be seen in the context of an environment in which the health hazards of smoking are becoming increasingly apparent and in which there have been changes in national legislation. (The whole Dunottar site is designated a No Smoking Site).

Dunottar School's aims with regards to tobacco, nicotine and vaping are:

- To provide accurate information relating to tobacco, nicotine, vaping and the dangers involved.
- To enable pupils to make sensible decisions and informed choices.
- To enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate personal support if they need guidance in relation to tobacco, nicotine addiction or vaping.
- To provide clear information about the law and rules relating to tobacco, vaping and the consequences of any breach.
- To ensure people using the school site are aware that it is a No Smoking Site.

Sanctions

- Any pupil caught smoking or vaping on site can expect to be suspended from school.
- Any pupil caught smoking or vaping within visible proximity of the school boundary can expect to receive an after-school sanction and a letter home to parents.
- Any pupil caught with smoking or vaping equipment on site can expect to receive an after-school sanctioned.

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH EDUCATION

We seek to achieve the above aims through a developed whole school approach to, Alcohol, Drugs and Nicotine education, which is principally based on delivery via the PSHE and RSE programme, but also in other contexts (including Assemblies and form periods).

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- The Behaviour Policy
- Exclusions, expulsions and removals policy

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