



# Gosfield School

## Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

We have age-appropriate education programmes at Gosfield School that focus upon the potential risks from excessive consumption of alcohol and risks of smoking. They concentrate on teaching the importance of young people making healthy, informed choices. The programmes commence in the Prep School and continue throughout your child's time at the school. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE and Science. We also have assemblies on the topic, talks from the police and we invite specialist speakers to talk to the pupils covering the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco.

Our staff play an active role in promoting greater awareness about the risks involved. Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drinking and smoking with any member of staff as we are very conscious of the importance of working together in order to promote the well-being of your son or daughter.

We do not allow the pupils to bring alcohol or tobacco onto the premises. Pupils in Years 12 and 13 who are allowed out of the school at lunchtime are forbidden to visit pubs or bars, as well as from smoking or consuming alcohol. 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.

Gosfield School 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, but they are never served by, or to, pupils. Soft drinks are always available at such events.

Pupils caught breaching these guidelines on alcohol or who are caught smoking/ vaping can expect to be suspended and for their parents or guardians to be invited to the School in order to discuss the matter. A pupil may be referred for a session of counselling where we have reason to believe that he or she has issues with either alcohol or tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

In such cases, the DSL will speak with the pupil to ensure that there are no extra familial threats such as gangs, grooming, child criminal exploitation or serious violent crime. The School reserves the right to undertake subsequent random bag checks to ensure there is no pattern of repeat behaviour. This will happen in accordance with guidance on searching possessions. Should there be cause for concern and it is believed that a child is at risk of significant harm, advice from Safeguarding partners will be taken and it may require a referral to Social Care or the Police. The Principal will be kept informed and parents will be kept updated.