



Gosfield School

Alcohol, Tobacco and Intoxicants 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/ vaping and related illegal substances. 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 students covering the serious risks from abuse of illegal substances and from alcohol and tobacco.

Students

At Gosfield School, we recognise our responsibility to educate and support our students—particularly those who are curious or seeking information—about the evolving landscape of edibles and drugs. As new products and methods of consumption emerge, such as cannabis edibles, concentrates (including dabs, oils, and waxes), and other substances like snuff (a form of smokeless tobacco), it is essential that we remain informed and proactive.

Cannabis edibles are becoming increasingly common, many cannabis concentrates contain extremely high levels of THC, the psychoactive compound in cannabis, which remains illegal for recreational use in the UK.

We are committed to equipping our students with accurate, age-appropriate information to help them make safe, informed choices. Through open dialogue, education, and guidance, we aim to create a safe environment where students feel supported in asking questions and seeking help without judgment.

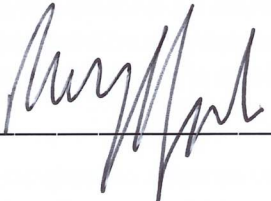
We do not allow the students to bring alcohol, tobacco, vapes, or illegal substances onto the premises. Students in Years 12 and 13 who are allowed out of the school at lunchtime are forbidden to visit pubs or bars, as well as from smoking/ vaping or consuming alcohol or drugs. This rule applies to all school trips and visits, whether in this country or overseas, irrespective of whether or not students are wearing school uniform at the time.

Gosfield School is a public place; smoking/ vaping therefore not permitted 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, students. Soft drinks are always available at such events.

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

In such cases, the DSL will speak with the student 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.

Signed  Date 4/9/25
Principal

Date for next review: September 2026