



LEWESTON

SHERBORNE

3.13 ALCOHOL AND SMOKING POLICY (including E-Cigarettes and Shisha Pens)

We have extensive health education and PSHE programmes at Leweston 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 involve pupils of all ages and continue throughout a pupil's time at the School. They extend across the curriculum, involving PSHE and Science and lessons.

Pupils can discuss their individual worries about drinking and smoking with their Tutor, Head of Year or any member of staff. They can also refer themselves to the Health Centre or the School Counsellor for individual guidance, without fearing sanctions or adverse report.

We do not allow the pupils at Leweston to bring alcohol or tobacco onto the premises. This also includes E-cigarettes, 'vaping' paraphernalia, and Shisha pens. 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.

Tobacco

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

Electronic Cigarettes

An electronic cigarette (e cig or e-cigarette), personal vaporizer (PV) or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS) is a battery-powered vaporizer which simulates tobacco smoking by producing an aerosol commonly, although incorrectly, called 'vapour' that resembles smoke. It does not contain 'tobacco' but does contain varying quantities of nicotine, and as such is a potential source of addiction.

Most e-cigarettes contain a battery, an atomiser and a replaceable cartridge. The cartridge contains nicotine in a solution of either propylene glycol or glycerine and water, and sometimes also flavourings. When inhaling on the device, a sensor detects the air flow and starts a process to heat the liquid inside the cartridge, so it evaporates to form water vapour. Inhaling this vapour delivers a hit of nicotine straight to the lungs. E-cigarettes are banned items at Leweston and possession and/or use of an e-cigarette will be treated in the same way as tobacco.

Shisha Pens/Pipes

The main difference between this and an e-cig is that they generally contain no nicotine. However, refills can be bought that do contain nicotine.

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As with e-cigarettes, Shisha Pens/Pipes are banned items on the grounds (1) that they could pose a risk not only to the user but others from the passive smoke and the chemicals contained within. (2) Secondly there is a risk of these exploding when being charged and finally (3) smoking or possession of these items is actively promoting smoking in general.

A pupil caught smoking on the first occasion will serve a Saturday detention; a repeated smoking offence will likely result in the pupil being temporarily excluded.

Pupils caught in possession of smoking paraphernalia can expect to have the discovered tobacco products confiscated and disposed of; sanctions will be determined by the circumstances, with first offences likely to result in a two hour Friday evening detention.

Alcohol

We will offer wine to parents and guardians at certain formal events, including plays and concerts to which they are invited. We hope that parents will cooperate and not permit their children to drink on these occasions. 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 and beer (but never spirits) to members of the Sixth Form on set occasions and under the supervision of a member of staff. On all such occasions, food and non-alcoholic drinks will be available. Pupils below the Sixth Form are not allowed alcohol.

Pupils may not bring alcohol into School. Equally, pupils may not buy or consume alcohol without appropriate permission while out of School but in our care (e.g. on School expeditions, weekend excursions, in a town/city while we are in loco parentis, at a social event). They are reminded it is illegal for anyone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or to be sold alcohol. Likewise, parents and pupils are reminded that it is illegal for anyone under 18 to drink alcohol in licensed premises, except where the child is 16 or 17 years old and accompanied by an adult. In this case it is legal for them to drink, but not buy beer, wine or cider with a table meal. Pupils must not drink alcohol on any School trips where local law prohibits it; otherwise the policy is as for the consumption of alcohol in School.

The School possesses alcohol detection kits which may be used where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil has been drinking illegally or in excess. The pupils are made aware of this system by the boarding and other pastoral staff.

Alcohol-related offences are considered as very serious. Parents will always be informed and even a first offence may result in a temporary exclusion from School of up to a week (seven consecutive days). Pupils found to have consumed alcohol unacceptably, as set out above, can expect to serve at least a Saturday Detention. Those found to have brought alcohol onto the School premises should expect to have any alcohol found removed and appropriately disposed of; temporary exclusions, even in first instances, will be considered.

Counselling might be suggested where we have reason to believe that a pupil has issues with either alcohol or tobacco, for example, when there are repeated infringements.

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