



Anti-Smoking Policy

The first of all things to aim at is to love the Lord God with your whole heart and soul and strength ... Your hope of fulfilment should be centred in God alone (R.St.B. Chapter 4)

Smoking is a serious threat to health and safety and the School policy reflects the current view in society, as embodied in the law, that smoking is unacceptable in the work place. Additionally, smoking indoors poses the risk of fire. Downside School, therefore, expects parents, staff and pupils to work together to ensure that everyone is aware of the dangers and to accept that everyone is responsible for setting an example.

Aims

Our aim is

- to ensure that there is a totally non-smoking environment at Downside.
- to prevent pupils from starting to smoke and to ensure that those who have started will stop.
- to promote a healthy and balanced lifestyle and emphasise the detrimental effects of smoking

In pursuit of these aims, pupils at Downside will receive education, through the SMSC / Benedictine Living programme, on smoking and its risks as early as possible and, preferably, before they are tempted to experiment.

All pupils are encouraged to adopt a healthy lifestyle through the School's games and extra-curricular programme. Smoking is not consistent with the principles and values which underpin Downside Sport; it is also detrimental to physical fitness. Those who seek to represent the School at a high level in sport should be aware of their responsibility to set an example to others.

Regulations

1. No one (pupils, staff, parents or visitors) may smoke in the School buildings or on the School site.
2. Additionally, pupils may not smoke at any time when they are the responsibility of the staff, including whilst on School trips, expeditions and visits.
3. Pupils found in the presence of other pupils smoking will be considered to be colluding in the act and will receive the same sanction as someone smoking.
4. The possession of smoking materials (including e-cigarettes) is forbidden.
5. No one may distribute or sell cigarettes within the School. This is considered a very serious offence and, in some circumstances, may result in the pupil's immediate suspension from School by the Deputy Head Master.
6. Incidents of smoking must be reported to the pupil's House Master/Mistress (HsM), and through them to the parents and Director of Pastoral Care. The report of an incident will

include details of place and time, the names of others smoking and any other relevant details.

7. Smoking in or on the School buildings will be seen as especially serious, and may involve immediate suspension from School.

The School will not regard it necessary for the offender to be caught in the act. Evidence in a room, the smell of cigarettes on the breath or the possession of smoking materials may be taken as sufficient evidence. The School will impose a suitable sanction for each offence, which the Director of Pastoral Care will oversee to ensure consistency. It is the HsM's responsibility to ensure that the pupil has a sufficient understanding of the seriousness of smoking. This will usually involve specific advice from the Health Centre staff, who will also provide full support to those who want to stop smoking. Repeated offences will raise concerns regarding discipline and addiction and may result in suspension. The Head Master reserves the right to exclude a pupil from the school permanently if he/she refuses to co-operate with the School's smoking policy.

Disciplinary process:

First Offence:

The HsM will interview and advise the pupil, and parents will be informed and a written record kept. The pupil will be gated for one weekend, with a two-hour Saturday evening detention during which time the pupil will do some work on smoking awareness or receive a similar punishment, and be referred to the Health Centre for a talk on smoking cessation from a member of the Health Centre staff.

Second Offence:

Again, the HsM will interview and advise the pupil, and parents will be informed in writing by the Director of Pastoral Care. The pupil will be gated for two weekends, with two-hour Saturday evening detentions during which time the pupil will do some work on smoking awareness, or receive a similar punishment and again be referred to the Health Centre for ongoing talks on smoking cessation from a member of the Health Centre staff.

Third Offence:

The Director of Pastoral Care will interview and advise the pupil, and parents will be informed. The pupil will be referred to the Deputy Head Master and will be suspended from School for three days. The Deputy Head Master will write to the pupil's parents detailing the incident and subsequent action. On return to School, the pupil will be required to see the Head Master, and will be given ongoing advice from the Health Centre.

In the unlikely event of further offences, the pupil will be suspended from School by the Deputy Head Master for an appropriate time. The Head Master will determine, after a letter of final warning, whether any exclusion will be permanent, and the pupil expelled or required to leave.

Policy written by AFN (Director of Pastoral Care)

1.2.14

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Clare Murphy

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