



THE ENGLISH COLLEGE IN PRAGUE
ANGLICKÉ GYMNÁZIUM

Smoking, Drugs & Substance Abuse Policy 2024-25

For the purposes of this policy, additive or harmful substances include nicotine, cannabis (including marijuana), alcohol and other even more serious or illegal substances. (This is a non-exhaustive list and the policy allows for other substances not explicitly mentioned here to be included in its scope.)

Harmful or addictive substances are likely to have a damaging effect on the mental and physical condition of young people. It is the duty of The English College to make students aware of the dangers of substance abuse and to make it clear to them that the possession or use of these substances on school premises or on school trips is totally forbidden. The English College must remain a smoking, vaping and drug free zone.

Anyone using such substances recreationally risks experiencing negative effects not only on their wellbeing and health but also on their intellectual functioning, including learning, concentration and educational achievement. This includes smoking or chewing (tobacco, cannabis, or marijuana), and vaping, which many young people wrongly believe to be harmless. For example, there is plenty of medical evidence which links regular or heavy use of cannabis to mental illness, especially schizophrenia, psychosis, anxiety and depression.

General Response to Substance Abuse

If a student's behaviour is unusual, or if their academic performance or behaviour deteriorates significantly, then that student will be spoken to and, if there appears to be a problem of substance abuse, parents may be invited into the College, so that the Headmaster can advise them on further steps which must be taken in the best interests of the student and the rest of the College community.

Smoking Tobacco

Parents and teachers need to work together to discourage young people from smoking tobacco as this is clearly in the best interests of a student's health and wellbeing. It is not against the law for children to smoke nicotine in the Czech Republic, and as such we will not take any disciplinary action if we become aware that students smoke. However, we reserve the right to share information about students smoking with their parents if we think this is appropriate to do

so for health, wellbeing or safeguarding reasons. Smoking is forbidden on the school grounds, and on trips under all circumstances, so we will also take disciplinary action in line with our School Code under these circumstances.

Alcohol

Pupils may not bring alcohol onto College premises or on school trips, or consume alcohol during the school day on or off, or within the vicinity of, the College premises. On school trips the School Code still applies. No pupils may drink alcohol and must accept any additional rules required by the trip organiser. Pupils who ignore this may be sent home immediately and it will be treated as a serious breach of the school rules.

Specific approach in the case of supplying or selling

If a student is discovered buying, offering, supplying or selling substances referred to in this policy, then they will forfeit their place at the College and must expect to be asked to leave the College immediately and permanently. Please refer to the School Code for specific details.

Students Seeking Help

If a student is dependent on or addicted to drugs and wishes to seek help, he or she should tell the Headmaster or the Deputy Head (Pastoral & Wellbeing). Self-disclosure will be treated sympathetically and the College will endeavour to offer support and advice to the student and his/her parents. The College has access to drug prevention agencies in Prague.

