



Policy on Alcohol Consumption by Pupils

Background

Current Licensing Laws state that the age at which people are legally allowed to purchase alcohol is 18. Children aged 16 and 17 are only permitted to consume alcohol (not to buy) in the form of beer, wine or cider with a table meal and when accompanied by an adult. A table meal is defined as a substantial meal eaten with a knife and fork.

Policy and Guidelines

The School's general policy on alcohol is that, on School visits, trips (including residential trips), during School activities, on or off site, or in any activity associated with the School, alcohol is strictly forbidden for pupils under the age of sixteen. Pupils over the age of sixteen (including those aged 18+) may be permitted to drink alcohol **only** in the following circumstances:

- The alcohol is being consumed with a table meal at which non-alcoholic drinks are also being provided.
- Consumption of alcohol is moderate and only beer or wine or cider is consumed
- Pupils are not themselves driving to or from the event
- Appropriate provision of non-alcoholic drink for any under 16 is made
- Alcohol is served by an authorised adult (e.g. restaurant staff or Sodexo staff)
- There is appropriate staff supervision of the event (see staff guidelines on alcohol)
- Written consent of the Deputy Head has been obtained beforehand (please see form)

Pupils who breach the above rules can expect to face the most serious sanctions and staff must ensure that any breaches of the above rules are notified immediately to the Deputy Head.

Pupils may not drink alcohol on other School occasions and should never bring alcohol onto School premises for consumption.

Staff Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of staff to ensure that the policy and guidelines for staff regarding alcohol consumption by pupils are implemented fully when pupils are in their care or under their supervision.

It is also essential that during school trips abroad, staff should be aware of the relevant laws on alcohol consumption in the country visited and make sure that pupils comply with them,

always provided that School policy remains paramount. If any colleagues are in doubt about any situation in this country or abroad, they should seek prior advice directly from the Deputy Head.

Staff must ensure that any breaches of the above rules are notified immediately to the Deputy Head.

If staff become aware of a social or other event associated with the School organised by pupils without staff supervision (e.g. a sports team social organised off-site), they must inform the Deputy Head.

Updated September 2011
Reviewed by Governors January 2012
For review by VEB and PGM July 2012

For review