



Alcohol Policy

PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is:

- To encourage pupils to adopt a responsible and educated attitude towards alcohol;
- To make pupils aware of the dangers of alcohol abuse, both to themselves and to others;
- To protect pupils from such dangers;
- To encourage a tolerance towards cultural/religious differences in attitudes towards alcohol;
- To conform to legal restrictions regarding the purchase of alcohol by or for young persons.

SCOPE

This is a cross-College policy for pupils.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Alcohol consumption in the UK is governed by strict laws.

It is against the law:

- To sell alcohol to someone under 18 anywhere.
- For an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol on behalf of someone under 18. (retailers can reserve the right to refuse the sale of alcohol to an adult if they're accompanied by a child and think the alcohol is being bought for the child.)
- For someone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or to be sold alcohol.
- For someone 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 and cider with a table meal.
- For an adult to buy alcohol for someone under 18 for consumption on licensed premises, except as above.
- To give children alcohol if they are under five.

It is not illegal:

- For someone over 18 to buy a child over 16 beer, wine or cider if they are eating a table meal together in licensed premises. Despite this not being illegal, the College nevertheless does not allow its pupils who are 18 or over to buy alcohol for pupils who are under 18.
- For a child aged five to 16 to drink alcohol at home or on other private premises.

If the police suspect someone under 18 has alcohol in a public place, they have the power to confiscate it. If young people get caught with alcohol three times they could face a social contract, a fine or arrest. Getting a criminal record could affect future job prospects and make it more difficult to travel to countries like the USA.



The police can also confiscate alcohol from someone, no matter what their age, if they believe it has been, or will be drunk by someone under 18 in a public place.

SCHOOL RULES

- Pupils must not bring alcohol onto the school premises and the consumption, possession, sale or other involvement with alcohol by pupils is forbidden.
- Public houses and bars are out of bounds to all pupils whilst in the College's care, except on a Saturday night for Block I pupils who need specific permission from their Housemaster/mistress (HoM). Only pupils who are 18 or over may consume alcohol and these pupils may only drink a small amount of wine or beer, not exceeding two glasses of wine (150 ml each, approx 2 units each) or two bottles of beer (330 ml each, approximately 1.7 units each). Spirits are forbidden. House curfew must be strictly adhered to.
- Pupils who are 18 or over must not under any circumstances purchase alcohol for pupils who are under 18.

PRACTICES

- No alcohol is served to Prep School pupils in any circumstances.
- No alcohol is served to pupils in Block II (Years 9 to 11) in the Upper School in any circumstances.
- At certain designated events namely: the Commem Ball and the Gabblers Dinners, Sixth Form pupils may be offered a small amount of wine or beer as detailed here.
- The Gabblers competition is an after-dinner speaking competition for pupils from schools across Bristol and North Somerset. Competitors at the dinners are offered one glass of wine to be consumed at the table.
- The Commem Ball is a leavers ball for the U6 at half term in the Summer Term. Pupils will be offered three glasses of wine or three bottles of beer. Alcohol will be served at the table, and not consumed away from the table.
- Parents will be informed by the relevant HoM about these events and will be asked for their permission for this to happen.
- Designated members of staff responsible for pupils at a school event, trip or match will not consume any alcohol.
- The Marshal carries out routine checks of licensed premises in the vicinity of the College.

PROCEDURES

- An allegation, suspicion or rumour that a pupil may have been drinking alcohol without permission will be referred to their HoM who will always consult with the Deputy Head (Pastoral). The HoM, the Assistant HoM, the Marshal or another member of senior staff may require the pupil to submit to a breath test. The consent of the pupil if aged 16 or over or if considered by the relevant staff member to be of sufficient maturity and understanding will be sought before the test is undertaken. For other pupils, parental consent will be sought. The College may draw inferences from a refusal to consent to a breath test.



- Pupils who are ill due to the effects of alcohol will normally be taken to the Health Centre which may require an overnight stay; usually the costs of this care will be met by the parents of the pupil(s) concerned.
- The College recognises that pupils who infringe these alcohol rules may need guidance and help. Pupils who consume an excess of alcohol will usually meet subsequently with a member of the Health Centre. Persistent offenders may require the help of a Counsellor, or more specialised support.
- Sixth Form pupils under the age of 18, and those without permission, found drinking alcohol in public houses or bars whilst in the College's care will be sent back to their House immediately. No Block II pupils are permitted in public houses or bars unless accompanied by their parents/guardians or a member of staff.

PASTORAL CONCERNS

Any member of staff who has concerns over the welfare of a pupil which they consider could possibly come from involvement with alcohol should speak in person with the pupil's HoM who will share the concern with the Deputy Head (Pastoral). If appropriate the HoM will share these concerns with the parent/guardian in order to consider the pastoral welfare of the individual.

SANCTIONS

- Prep School pupils caught in possession of alcohol or found to be under the influence of alcohol will be subject to the Prep School Behaviour Policy.
- Boarders in a public house or bar without HoM permission, but not drinking (first offence): Saturday Night Detention.
- Boarders returning to the House late on a Saturday evening may in the first instance be dealt with by their HoM and will normally receive a School gating.
- Unauthorised consumption or possession of alcohol (first offence): Internal suspension.
- Inebriated pupils: Internal suspension.
- For repeat offenders or if spirits or very large quantities of alcohol are involved, sanctions may be more severe. Parents will be informed when appropriate.
- Parents/guardians may be informed where pupils are found to be transgressing with alcohol whilst not under the College's care.

CURRICULUM LINKS

Issues relating to alcohol and alcohol abuse are discussed as part of the Block II and Year 7 and 8 PSHE programme and the Sixth Form lecture programme.

LINKS TO OTHER POLICIES

This policy should be read along with the Rewards and Sanctions Policy for the Upper and Prep Schools and Searching and Confiscation Policy.



IMPLEMENTATION/DISSEMINATION

All members of the teaching staff share a responsibility for the implementation of this policy. The policy is made clear to pupils through the School Rules. It is available to parents through the Parent Portal. Further copies are available to parents or pupils on request.