



Alcohol Policy

Policy number	US029
Applies to	Upper School
Endorsed by	Head Master
Responsibility	Head Master
Date reviewed	March 2021
Next review	March 2022

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol is a depressant drug, particularly when taken in large quantities. Even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents arises. The Licensing Act 2003 makes it generally illegal for alcohol to be sold to or purchased by anyone under the age of 18. Students found in possession, using or under the influence of alcohol whilst under the authority of the School can expect to be suspended. Sixth form, and some Fifth Form boys, attending school functions on-site at which alcohol is available may consume alcohol if they wish under the strict supervision of staff as outlined in this policy.

The school aims to educate pupils about the dangers associated with alcohol, and about responsible behaviour with regard to drinking in its Citizenship programme. There may be school occasions when alcoholic drinks may be consumed but only in the presence of a member of staff and, in the case of boarders, with the House Master's permission. It is the responsibility of the supervising member of staff to ensure, as far as possible, that no boy below the Fifth Form consumes any alcohol; that Fifth Form boys consume no more than two alcoholic drinks and that those in the Sixth Form drink sensibly.¹ Spirits should never be consumed. Boys driving to and from school functions should never drink any alcohol.

The same expectations about alcohol consumption apply on trips and tours as in school. It is the responsibility of the supervising member of staff to ensure that no member of the party will participate in any activity that is likely to put any person in danger, or bring the school into disrepute, and this includes purchasing and consuming alcohol. Any pupil who exploits opportunities to drink on tours may expect punishment at the discretion initially of the tour leader or, in acute cases, of the Head Master.

A pupil found intoxicated through alcohol will be given appropriate treatment, including medical attention if necessary, and parents will be informed as soon as possible. Any alcohol found in the possession of pupils on school premises will be confiscated and appropriate sanctions may be applied.

Any pupil who obtains or possesses alcoholic drinks, other than at school occasions when alcohol is permitted, or who exploits opportunities to drink at school events by consuming more than he should, may expect punishment at the discretion of the Head Master.

Guidelines for boys on the School's Alcohol Policy

There are some school occasions when certain year groups can drink alcohol but you must be clear about the rules.

- A member of staff must be present
- If you are a Boarder, you must have your House Master's permission
- Spirits are never allowed
- Fourths and Removes are not allowed to drink alcohol
- Fifth Form boys are not allowed to drink more than two alcoholic drinks
- Sixth Formers must drink sensibly (see note below)
- Never, ever drink and drive.
- On a school visit or tour, the same rules apply.

¹ People aged 16 and 17 can drink beer, wine or cider with a table meal in a dining room, provided that the alcohol is purchased by an adult (18 or over) and that the adult remains with the underage person. Please note that bar snacks do not count as a table meal.