

ALCOHOL POLICY

19th AUGUST 2024

Document History

Owner:	The Sub-Warden
Document Status:	Final
Approved by:	Safeguarding & Wellbeing Committee of the Governing Body
This document is available from:	School Intranet and website
Review Cycle	Annual
Current version Adopted:	August 2024
Review Date:	August 2025
Linked Documents:	Safeguarding Policy, Wellbeing Policy, Behaviour Policy, Drugs Policy, Exclusion Policy, Boarding Principles and Practice, Safeguarding Policy, Code of Conduct
Linked External Documents	School Rules

Roles and Responsibilities

The Sub-Warden is responsible for creating, implementing, and maintaining this policy, as well as being responsible for all of the operational matters associated with this policy.

The Sub-Warden ensures that all of the teaching staff understand the policy and their responsibilities within it and that the policy is consistently implemented in all departments, including identifying training needs.

All **Teaching Staff** must understand their responsibilities defined in the policy and seek to carry out the requirements, such that they have a duty of care to pass on information regarding any pupil who misuses alcohol. Staff should seek support from the Sub-Warden where needed.

The Safeguarding & Wellbeing Committee of the Governing Body approve this policy.

This policy outlines what we expect from all our pupils in terms of their behaviour. It extends to all members of our school community and is written in line with the School's values, which are based on

the Christian principles on which the School was founded and which, through Chapel, remain central to the life of the School.

Integrity: the value of honesty to ourselves and to each other

- we seek to earn and to deserve the trust of others, by acting rightly and justly;
- we take responsibility for our words and actions;
- we acknowledge our mistakes and we learn from them;

Kindness: the value of love

- we feel and show compassion for others, always listening and seeking always to understand;
- we value, respect and include others without regard for differences;
- we treat others as we would have them treat us;

Courage: truthfulness to our values at the testing point

- we stand up for what we believe to be right, speaking up for ourselves and for others;
- we seek to bring out the best in others;
- we persevere with resilience, with forgiveness and with patience.

More generally, good behaviour and self-discipline have strong links to effective learning and are vital not just for a well-ordered community but for the development of character.

Aims

To educate pupils about the potential problems associated with alcohol (and particularly excessive consumption) and thus develop responsible attitudes to alcohol and its place within a social context.

To provide a set of rules and guidance that encourages all pupils to make informed and responsible choices about the consumption of alcoholic beverages on the basis that:

- alcohol is a widely used, legal but potentially harmful substance when consumed to excess;
- it is illegal to sell alcohol to a person under the age of 18.
- there is a distinction between different alcoholic drinks on the basis of their relative strengths.

To develop a partnership with parents in order to encourage pupils to drink responsibly and within the bounds of legislation.

To ensure that staff have a clear understanding of the School's procedures regarding alcohol.

To ensure that legislation in The Licensing Act 2003 is fully understood by staff, parents and pupils.

To develop a partnership with the local police in trying to stop the illegal sale of alcohol to people under the age of 18.

To develop a partnership with parents in order to dissuade pupils from 'binge drinking', and from consuming spirits, and to ensure that older pupils do not supply alcohol to younger pupils.

Education

The School, especially through its Wellbeing Curriculum, encourages pupils to develop emotional and spiritual well-being in such a way that they do not need to drink alcohol in order to impress their peers or have to drink alcohol in order to make themselves feel happy or confident.

- The Wellbeing education programme progressively fosters knowledge and understanding of alcohol and its consequences.
- House teams regularly remind pupils about the potential problems associated with alcohol and particularly excessive drinking.

In addition, there are opportunities for older pupils to learn to drink in a social context, but there are clear rules for pupils and staff about the consumption of alcohol in such situations within the context of legislation which severely restricts the sale and supply of alcohol to those under the age of 18.

General Rules

No pupil is allowed to visit a public house or bring alcohol into the School. Pupils (even those who are 18) may only drink alcohol in very limited circumstances. Whenever the School allows groups of pupils to have alcohol:

- food (more than crisps etc.) must be provided is a widely used;
- soft drinks must be readily available and encouraged;
- the alcohol will be dispensed by the adults(s) in charge and the pupils will be under close supervision both to prevent pupils from surreptitiously obtaining alcohol and to ensure no pupil has too much to drink; and
- in some cases, even where pupils are permitted an alcoholic drink, such drinks are not made available until the pupils have eaten some food and had a soft drink.

The regulations for the supply of alcohol, which are designed to protect both adults and pupils, are below. These rules apply on all School trips as well as in school.

HMs brief their pupils at the start of every term on the School's Alcohol Policy.

Entertainment by Staff

No pupil below the Sixth Form may be given or allowed to drink alcohol while at the School (including in an adult's home) or at any School event in school or on a school trip.

Sixth Form pupils may only drink alcohol in small quantities (a maximum of two alcoholic drinks) as part of a social event for which prior approval has been obtained from the Sub-Warden and where food is served (more than crisps, nuts etc) and soft drinks are readily available. On such occasions, pupils may only drink normal strength beer, cider or wine. Fortified wine and spirits are strictly forbidden.

Alcohol should not be served to a pupil at any School function when there are lessons the next day without the expressed permission of the Sub-Warden. Effectively this means that alcohol will usually only be served, with a meal, on Saturday nights. HMs should know, in advance, those pupils attending a dinner or similar event. Entertainment by the Warden or the Sub-Warden is the only exception to this rule. At events for pupils hosted by the Warden or the Sub-Warden, the rules on entertainment set out above continue to apply.

In Boarding Houses

The boarding house is recognised as a good environment in which to educate pupils about alcohol use and abuse. HMs, who are truly 'in loco parentis', should use their judgment within the guidelines below.

Shells, Fourth Form and Fifth Formers will not be given alcohol.

Pupils in the Sixth Form may be given alcohol in small quantities at House functions where food is served (more than crisps, nuts etc.) and soft drinks are readily available. On such occasions, pupils may only drink normal strength beer, cider, or wine. Fortified wine and spirits are strictly forbidden. Each pupil can have a maximum of two normal strength drinks.

Alcohol must **not** be given to Sixth Form pupils, in House, after they have been drinking at the charity function, school function, Cooper's Café, or leave into Oxford or elsewhere.

Alcohol is a prohibited item and as such can be searched for as being in a pupil's possession. Any alcohol found will be confiscated. Staff should refer to the School's Search Policy for further information and speak to the Sub-Warden where they have concerns about a pupil.

Other Circumstances in which Sixth Form Pupils may have access to Alcohol

Alcohol may be consumed by Sixth Form pupils, with a meal, at Cooper's Café, where it is supervised by several members of staff. Only pupils with parental permission to consume alcohol, recorded on the School System, will be served alcohol by the School.

Alcohol may also be consumed by Upper Sixth formers in Oxford on a Saturday evening if they are 18 years old. On such occasions, pupils may only drink normal strength beer, cider, or wine. Fortified wine and spirits are strictly forbidden. Each pupil can have a maximum of two normal strength drinks.

Alcohol may be served on special occasions, or events, with the Warden's or Sub-Warden's explicit consent. Permission will only be granted on the understanding that the alcohol is served by adults and the quantity is less than the equivalent of two glasses of wine per pupil.

Disciplinary Process

There are clear disciplinary sanctions for breaches of the rules on alcohol. Alcohol-related offences are treated seriously, especially when pupils have drunk fortified wine or spirits.

When a member of staff suspects that a pupil has drunk more than the permitted limits of alcohol outlined in this policy, they should in the first instance contact the HM and also the Deputy Head Pastoral alongside the member of staff on duty within the Health Centre. The HM (or other member of the core house staff) will initiate an investigation, which will then be passed to the Sub-Warden.

The School reserves the right to breathalyse the pupil to resolve any conflict between a pupil and HM and to ensure the welfare of the pupil and that urgent medical care is not required. These breath tests will be conducted, where possible, by a member of the Health Centre team with a member of the core House team present. If the breathalyser reveals the pupil is over the limit, with a high reading, they will remain in the Health Centre under the observation of the Nurse on duty; alternatively the pupil can return home to the care of their parents or guardian.

Any pupil that has been caught breaking the rules regarding alcohol should expect to be subject to a precautionary drugs test.

Typically, the HM, or a member of the core house team, will inform the parents or guardians in the event of a pupil breaching the rules with regard to alcohol misuse. This communication will happen in a timely manner and will notify the pupil's parents or guardians of the sanction given to the pupil.

Sanctions

First offences which involve wine, cider, or beer and which do not involve consumption to significant excess are usually dealt with by the HM, in conjunction with the Director of Behaviour and Standards, and will ordinarily lead to a Sub-Warden's Detention on a Saturday evening.

The sanction for subsequent offences will be determined by the Deputy Head Pastoral, after consultation with the relevant HM. Persistent offences are likely to lead to a serious school sanction.

Pupils drinking to excess and/or to the point of sickness should expect to receive a serious school sanction, typically exclusion for 48 hours.

Supplying alcohol to others will be taken seriously; for instance, a senior pupil drinking alcohol with or supplying alcohol to junior pupils can expect to be given a fixed period exclusion.

All offences involving fortified wine or spirits will be investigated by the Sub-Warden, and given the risk of harm to individual pupils, it is likely that such behaviour will result in the exclusion of the pupil(s) involved for a fixed period and the consideration of a Final Warning in relation to the pupil's place in the School.

Whether or not a pupil is sanctioned in accordance with this policy, the Warden and/or Sub-Warden retains discretion under the Standard Terms and Conditions which include a right permanently to

exclude a pupil if they are reasonably satisfied that the pupil's conduct (whether on or off school premises, in or out of term time) has been prejudicial to good order or School discipline or to the reputation of the School. In such circumstances, the School will follow its Exclusion Policy.