



King's College

TAUNTON

Alcohol Policy

Policy Date: September 2023

Responsibility

Individual: Deputy Head (Pastoral)

Review Cycle: (Annual)

Next scheduled review: September 2024

Last interim review: October 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this policy is to encourage pupils to adopt a responsible attitude towards alcohol and make them fully aware of the dangers, both to themselves and others.

In our society young people are exposed to alcohol at an increasingly early age. We believe we have a duty to help our pupils learn about the dangers of alcohol as well as to convey a clear message of our expectations through our disciplinary procedures. In particular we are aware of the dangerous effect that spirits can have on a teenage body and will ensure that we do everything possible to encourage our pupils to behave responsibly in this regard to ensure their own, and others', safety. A programme of alcohol education is provided through PSHE and other curriculum areas; this includes the health and legal aspects of alcohol consumption with a strong emphasis on the development of responsible attitudes and informed decision making. We are also conscious that this can be a worrying area for parents, with whom we work in partnership in the educational process. We ask that parents support this partnership by not permitting alcohol at parties of pupils below the Sixth Form and by ensuring that all parties are well supervised.

2. THE LAW

The law states that under 18s may not consume or purchase alcohol, or have it supplied to them, on licensed premises. There is one exception to this: a 16 or 17 year old is allowed to drink beer, wine or cider with a table meal provided that an adult purchases the drink. An adult must accompany the 16 or 17 year old(s) during the meal. Snacks do not count as a table meal.

3. SCHOOL POLICY

The overriding principles of the School's policy regarding alcohol are our concern for the health and safety of our pupils and adherence to the law. In addition to the requirements of the law the consumption, on unlicensed premises, of strictly limited quantities of beer, cider or wine by members of the Sixth Form, is permissible when it adheres to the law and is under the direct supervision of members of the teaching staff and approved in advance by the Head or the Deputy Head (Pastoral). For overseas trips School rules apply **in addition** to the local law (whichever specifies the higher minimum age will take precedence), and any additional arrangements will be written into the risk assessment and agreed with the member of staff in charge of the trip by the Head or the Deputy Head.

We believe that for those who have no principled objection to alcohol, moderate, responsible social drinking within current health guidelines is a valuable life skill for our senior pupils to learn. However, we realise that not all pupils and their parents will wish to consume alcohol and we aim to ensure that an attractive range of soft drinks is offered whenever beer, cider or wine is served.

Legal advice is that we obtain parental consent to allow the consumption of alcohol in accordance with this policy. Parents of Sixth Form pupils who wish to give their consent to their son or daughter being offered alcohol in the Senior Social Club must complete and return the appropriate consent form. Alcohol may only be consumed with a table meal.

The School reserves the right not to serve alcohol to any pupil (including those whose parents have completed a consent form and those over the age of 18) in certain situations where, for practical reasons, it would be very difficult to ensure compliance with the law.

4. RESTAURANT EXEATS

Sixth Form pupils are permitted to organise a restaurant exeat on Saturday evenings and other weekdays in **exceptional** circumstances. They may, according to clearly defined guidelines and with the permission of the Deputy Head and their Houseparent, visit an approved restaurant, where they must purchase a full meal. **They may only purchase alcohol if they are 18.**

5. SANCTIONS

In all other circumstances, to be drinking, or in possession of alcohol, or bringing alcohol into the School, or to be in the company of others who are drinking, or to be under the influence of alcohol, is a breach of the School rules and offenders will incur the following penalties:

- Level 1: Houseparent informs parents and a note is put in the pupil's file. The pupil is seen by the Deputy Head and is house/reverse gated for one week (seniors).
- Level 2: The pupil is seen by the Deputy Head, and a letter is written to the pupil's parents, a copy of which is put in the pupil's file. The pupil is close/reverse gated for two weeks.
- Level 3: The pupil is seen by the Head, who writes a letter to the pupil's parents, a copy of which is put in the pupil's file. The pupil should expect to be suspended from School for two days. Depending on the circumstances of the incident the pupil's parents may be required to meet the Head.
- Level 4: The pupil is seen by the Head, who writes a letter to the pupil's parents, a copy of which is put in the pupil's file. The pupil should expect to be suspended from School for one week. The pupil's parents will be required to meet the Head.
- Further Offences: The pupil's parents will be required to meet the Head. Depending on the circumstances of the incident the Head will decide either to suspend the pupil for a longer period (with a final warning about his/her future conduct) or to require the pupil to leave.

Notes:

1. A pupil committing a first offence will normally be placed on Level 1 with the following exceptions:
 - a) A pupil who has consumed spirits or has brought alcohol of any description (with the exception of spirits [see 1c) below]) onto the School grounds will automatically be placed on Level 2.
 - b) A pupil who has supplied alcohol to senior pupils (with the exception of spirits [see 1c) below], or who has been incapacitated by alcohol or required medical attention as a direct or indirect result of drinking alcohol will automatically be placed on Level 3.
 - c) A pupil who has brought spirits onto the school grounds, or who has supplied alcohol to lower school pupils will automatically be placed on level 4. A pupil supplying spirits to lower school pupils will be indefinitely suspended and should expect to be required to leave.
 - d) A lower school pupil drinking alcohol of any description will automatically be placed on level 3. A lower school pupil drinking spirits will automatically be placed on level 4.
2. Pupils involved in drinking incidents will automatically be barred from school social events for the remainder of the term (or the next six school weeks, whichever is the longer), including the Leavers' Ball for repeated or serious offences. Sixth Form pupils will have their Senior Social Club membership alcohol permissions withdrawn for the same period. Repeat offenders should expect a ban for the whole academic year.
3. The School will make every effort to ascertain where the alcohol was obtained. The details of shops knowingly supplying alcohol or pubs serving alcohol to under-aged pupils will be passed to the police and to the local Trading Standards Office.
4. Pupils may not, under any circumstances, drink alcohol before driving to or from School. Irrespective of whether they are over the legal alcohol limit or not, pupils known to have driven after drinking will have their right to drive to School withdrawn indefinitely.
5. A pupil who returns to School clearly under the influence of alcohol, irrespective of whether a day or boarding pupil or having been in the company or care of his/her parents, will incur the appropriate penalty according to the scale above.
6. School staff reserve the right to breathalyse pupils if they feel there is evidence to suggest (from disclosures, demeanour or behaviour) that school rules have been broken.

Reviewed by KLM February 2017
Change of name re Restaurant Exeats (formerly wine bar exeats)

Reviewed by KLM February 2018 – no changes

Reviewed by KLM February 2019 – no changes

Reviewed by KLM August 2019 – sanctions section amended to show additional level (Level 4), use of breathalysers, plus strengthening of sanctions as highlighted within the notes section.

Reviewed by KLM – October 2020 – no changes at this time

Reviewed by KLM – October 2021 – no changes at this time

Reviewed by KLM – October 2022 – no changes at this time

Reviewed by KLM – October 2023 – note 2 section of sanctions amended to reflect changes re Leavers' Ball and Senior Social Club membership.