



Cheltenham College Alcohol Policy

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 to others.

Statement of Policy

The College prohibits the consumption and purchase of alcohol by 3rd and 4th form pupils, and of spirits by all pupils while in the care of the College. 5th form pupils may, on certain occasions, drink a small quantity of beer or wine under the supervision of a member of staff, but may not purchase alcohol. When alcohol is available at school events or on social occasions, it is only available in limited quantities and always carefully monitored by a member of staff. A responsible attitude to drinking is promoted through the PSHCE programme and through guidelines laid down for Upper College while in the Social Club, at social functions, on College trips and in Town on Saturday evenings.

Implementation of Policy

Prevention of alcohol abuse through education

A programme of alcohol education is provided through timetabled sessions of PSHCE and lectures in Lower College: this includes the health and legal aspects of alcohol consumption with a strong emphasis on the development of responsible attitudes and informed decision taking.

The circumstances under which Upper College pupils may consume alcohol while in the care of the College:

- At a social function as a guest of a member of staff or supervised by a member of staff.
- In the Social Club and according to its rules.
- In approved public houses and approved restaurants, at approved times, if over 18 years of age.

Disciplinary procedure following any misuse of alcohol

Level 1: See Deputy Head. DHP's Gating or House Gating, Saturday night detention. Letter home.

Level 2: See Headmaster. DHP's Gating, 2 Saturday night detentions. Letter home.

Level 3: Suspension or expulsion.

Whether an offence falls within Level 1 or 2 is decided by the Deputy Head

(Pastoral), based on the seriousness of the incident and the age of the pupil concerned. The nature and seriousness of incidents involving alcohol can vary enormously; in certain circumstances a first offence could fall within Level 3. A situation where a pupil is very ill owing to alcohol abuse will be taken particularly seriously, as will supplying alcohol for other pupils, or drinking spirits. If pupils in the care of the College are involved in an incident related to the abuse of alcohol involving or resulting in criminal activity, the Police will normally be informed.

Support

Pupils who infringe the alcohol policy may need help and guidance: support through referral to the College Counsellor or another qualified counsellor or the Medical Centre may be suggested and discussed with the pupil and his or her parents.

Record Keeping

The Deputy Head (Pastoral) keeps a record of all incidents and subsequent punishments, together with copies of letters to parents.

September 2010

Review Date September 2011