

ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL AND CONTROLLED DRUGS POLICY

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Alcohol

Benenden School is keen to promote an appropriate awareness of all the issues surrounding the consumption of alcoholic drinks and to encourage our pupils to adopt a responsible enjoyment of alcohol through supervised social occasions.

No pupil under the age of 16 may be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances in school or on any educational visits.

Our PSHE programme includes important information and training on alcohol awareness at all stages of a pupil's education.

Drinking in School

Members of the Lower School (IV to UV) or members of the Sixth Form under the age of 16 may not be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances in school.

There are a number of occasions where members of the Sixth Form have the opportunity to drink an alcoholic beverage while in school, under the supervision of either their Hm, or of a member of staff responsible for the particular event.

1. The Founders (Sixth Form) Bar is open on a number of Saturday evenings each term as part of the weekend programme. It is always supervised by an Hm and only those Sixth Formers who have parental permission may have an alcoholic drink. This is always accompanied by a meal.
2. Staff organising an event where alcohol will be served must always ensure that the Hm is aware that the pupil may be offered wine. (Hms may be aware if a pupil is taking any medication that should not be combined with alcohol. Hms to make Sixth Formers aware of possible dangers of combining medication with alcohol). The First Deputy should be informed if an 18th birthday party in House will include alcohol.
3. No spirits may be offered to pupils.
4. Pupils may not have alcohol at more than one such event in any day.
5. Wine may only be offered to pupils with a meal at a table, or just before a meal starts.
6. The only exception to this is when pupils may be offered wine in the flat of an Hm or the home of a member of staff on site. This would be an unusual situation and should be checked with the First Deputy in advance.
7. When this happens, the alcohol must not have been bought for the specific purpose of entertaining pupils but is simply an extension of normal hospitality (to be clear, alcohol must not be purchased by an adult as an agent on behalf of pupils in order to supply them and thus no charge may be billed to them).
8. Whenever wine is offered there must also be a range of non-alcoholic drinks on offer.
9. Normally a pupil should not drink more than two small glasses of wine at any school event where alcohol is offered under the above terms.
10. Pupils must not be responsible for serving alcohol at any school event.
11. Staff supervising any such event should keep a watchful eye on pupil consumption and be prepared to act if they have any concerns with an individual pupil or group of pupils.
12. Staff supervising such an event are responsible for arranging for the safe keeping and removal of any alcohol associated with the event.
13. Any pupil who does not obey these guidelines must be reported to the First Deputy and to their Hm.
14. Sanctions may be issued and/or support offered for any pupil breach of the policy. Contact would be made with parents in any such situation.

Drinking out of School while under the care of staff

1. Staff leading educational visits must make it clear to pupils that the same rules apply as for drinking in school (except in the US, India or other countries where pupils do not meet the local minimum age for drinking).
2. Wine may only be offered to pupils over the age of 16 with a formal sit-down meal at a table.
3. Members of the Lower School (IV to UV) or members of the Sixth Form under the age of 16 may not be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances on educational visits.

Further guidance on supervising pupils on educational visits can be found in the [Educational Visits](#) policy.

Unsupervised Drinking

1. There should be no unsupervised drinking at school or on educational visits.
2. Hms or leaders of educational visits must report any abuse of alcohol to the Deputy Head Boarding and Pastoral.
3. Under-age purchasing of alcohol, bringing alcohol into school or supplying it to other pupils will result in punishment under the sanctions for abuse of alcohol in the [Pupil Behaviour Policy](#).

For students aged 18+ years

The law states that, if a person is under 18, it is illegal for them to buy alcohol (this includes in any shop or supermarket, off licenses, bars, clubs or restaurants and buying on line).

It is also illegal to buy alcohol for someone under 18 in a licensed premises, the only exception is for 16 or 17 year-olds who are allowed to drink beer, wine or cider with food if with an adult (but they may not buy the alcohol themselves).

1. Members of the Six Two may apply through their Hm to have a pub meal locally on a Saturday evening. Only those over the age of 18 may purchase alcohol and this must be restricted to no more than two small glasses of wine, cider or beer with the meal. Spirits must never be purchased. It is not illegal for someone over 18 to buy a drink from the list above for a pupil aged over 16 if they are eating a table meal together in licensed premises. Parental permission must have been obtained.
2. Members of the Grey Jumper body may also apply through their Hm to have a pub meal locally on a Friday evening from the start of their final Spring Term. The same rules apply about consumption and parental permission as above.
3. On such trips the pupils must specifically check in with their Hms on return.
4. The means of travel to and from the pub must also be agreed with the Hm.

Emergencies

At any school events where alcohol is being served, staff must be vigilant about who has access to it and plan before the event how alcohol consumption is to be monitored. Alcohol must not be left where pupils could gain access unsupervised.

If staff ever discover a pupil who appears to be intoxicated, seek appropriate help from their Hm and/or the Medical Centre. It may be necessary to put them into the recovery position before doing anything else. Remember that misuse of alcohol can be fatal.

Illegal or controlled drugs

It is important that all members of the community of Benenden School understand the School's procedures in relation to the misuse of illegal or controlled substances. This policy is drafted with reference to the Department for Education and ACPO's **Drug Advice for Schools** (September 2012), and to which the school will refer for further detail about the matters covered here. The named co-ordinator for drug related matters is the First Deputy.

This policy complements the School's PSHE programme, where students are taught directly about the dangers of abusing illegal or controlled substances. Within that programme students are encouraged to:

- Become aware of the facts and the law surrounding illegal or controlled substances use and misuse
- Consider thoughtfully attitudes and values connected with illegal or controlled substances
- Enhance appropriate skills, such as decision making and the ability to refuse the offer of illegal or controlled substances
- Discuss openly their attitudes and concerns in this area.

However, it is likely that at times students will come into contact with, or be tempted to experiment with, illegal or controlled substances. Staff must remember at all times that the use or possession of illegal or controlled substances is a serious problem and they should seek advice from a member of the Senior Management Team or Safeguarding team before confronting a student or investigating allegations of illegal or controlled substance misuse.

For the avoidance of doubt, previously labelled "Legal Highs" which have now been outlawed under The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 will be treated under this policy in the same way as all other illegal or controlled substances. This relates to possession, use and supply thereof.

If a student discloses that she or a friend is using or selling illegal or controlled substances, or if a parent tells you that they suspect their daughter or other students are misusing illegal or controlled substances, or if you suspect that illegal or controlled substances are being sold in school or near the school, you have a legal obligation to inform the First Deputy or Head for the prevention of harm. When a pupil is found to have been engaged in supplying drugs to others, she should expect that the School would involve the Police.

Sanctions are at the discretion of the Head, but this offence is likely to result in permanent exclusion. Appeals may be initiated using the School's formal Complaints Procedure.

The school will liaise with the local Police Youth Engagement Officer from time to time in order to keep our practices up to date.

Specific Sanctions for Illegal or Controlled Substances

Offences concerning illegal or controlled substances are considered very serious indeed. All sanctions apply on all educational visits as well as at School. Pupils who have been sanctioned for involvement with illegal or controlled substances should be aware that, if they are allowed to remain in school, they will be subject to random searches of their property and area with an adult present in addition to the member of staff conducting the search. In the event of a student being allowed to remain at School after an illegal or controlled substance offence, a condition will be that the individual submit to unannounced drug testing as well as the searches mentioned above.

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Further information on sanctions and searches can be found in the [Pupil Behaviour Policy](#).

In addition to our own PSHEE programme, Kent NHS provide a 'School Health' service which can be contacted on 0300 123 4496 or via email at nem-tr.kentchildrenandyoungpeoplehealthservices@nhs.net

A breach of this policy by staff will be treated as a disciplinary concern.