

Policy on Drinking Alcohol (Pupils)

Lancing College



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1 Purpose

- 1.1 In our society young people are being exposed to alcohol at an increasingly early age. As an educational establishment 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. 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 supervised.
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 The overriding principles of the school's policy regarding alcohol are our concern for the 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 or wine [no more than 2 small bottles of beer or 2 small glasses of wine] by members of the Sixth Form only, is permissible when it is under the direct supervision of members of the teaching staff and approved in advance by the Head Master or the Senior Deputy Head. No pupil below the Sixth Form may consume alcohol under any circumstances. For overseas trips, school rules pertain in addition to the local law (whichever specifies the higher minimum age will take precedence), and any particular arrangements will be written into the risk assessment and agreed with the member of staff in charge of the trip by the Senior Deputy Head or the Head Master.
- 1.4 We believe that for those who have no principled objection to alcohol, moderate, responsible social drinking in a supervised situation is something which it is positive to be able to offer on occasion to our senior pupils. However, we realise that not all pupils and their parents will wish to consume alcohol. We will therefore always ensure that an attractive range of soft drinks is offered whenever beer or wine is served to Sixth Form pupils.
- 1.5 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 should complete and return the attached consent form. 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 (for example interval drinks in Cherry Hall when there are theatrical productions in the Theatre).
- 1.6 On reaching the age of 18, pupils may request permission from their Housemaster/Housemistress (as part of the process of gaining permission to be off campus) to purchase and consume a limited quantity of alcohol in a pub or restaurant whilst off the school campus at weekends. Where such permission is granted, it in no way exempts the holder from the conditions of note 4 below, so consumption of alcohol must be moderated accordingly, and pupils may not bring alcohol onto the school grounds on their return. A

pupil over the age of 18 having gained such permission may not, under any circumstances, purchase alcohol for a pupil who does not hold such permission or who is under the age of 18. Should the conditions of this permission be abused in any way, the right to request it may be removed for a limited or indefinite period. Pupils applying to their Housemaster/Housemistress (HMM) for such permission should have acceptable ID (for example, photo driving licence, passport, proof of age scheme card (ideally bearing the PASS logo) as proof of age in case they are challenged at the point of sale.

2 Sanctions

2.1 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:* HMM informs parents by letter, a copy of which is put in the pupil's file. The pupil is interviewed by the Assistant Head (Pastoral) and is placed in Head Master's detention for two hours.
- *Level 2:* The pupil is interviewed by the Assistant Head (Pastoral), who writes a letter to the pupil's parents, a copy of which is put in the pupil's file. The pupil is placed on hourly report for a week and in Head Master's detention for two hours.
- *Level 3:* The pupil is interviewed by the Senior Deputy 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 and their parents should expect to meet the Head Master for a return to school interview at the end of their period of suspension.

2.2 *Further Offences:* The pupil's parents will be required to meet the Head Master. Depending on the circumstances of the incident the Head Master will decide either to suspend the pupil for a longer period (with a final warning about their future conduct) or to require the pupil to leave.

2.3 *Notes:*

2.3.1 A pupil committing a first offence will normally be placed on Level 1 with the following exceptions:

- A pupil who has consumed spirits, brought alcohol of any description (with the exception of spirits [see 1b) below]) onto the school grounds or supplied alcohol to others will automatically be placed on Level 2.
- A pupil who has brought spirits onto the school grounds, supplied spirits to others, been incapacitated by alcohol or required medical attention as a direct or indirect result of drinking alcohol will automatically be placed on Level 3.

2.3.2 We will make every effort to ascertain where the alcohol was obtained. The details of shops supplying alcohol to under-aged pupils will be passed to the police.

2.3.3 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.

- 2.3.4 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.

3 Policy on Drinking Alcohol – note to staff

- 3.1 Members of staff are reminded that the serving of alcohol to Sixth Formers is permissible only when it is in accordance with the law, under the direct supervision of members of the teaching staff and approved in advance by the Head Master or the Senior Deputy Head.
- 3.2 Under no circumstances must any member of staff prejudice our Premises Licence. The consequences are:
- An unlimited fine and/or 6 months' imprisonment for the Designated Premises Supervisor plus loss of Personal Licences for those holding such a licence.
 - Loss of Premises Licence – preventing all Licensable Activities: serving of alcohol at any function; performance of plays/dance/music/films at 'Public' events; staging of 'Public' 'indoor sporting events' in Pool or Sports Hall.
 - Police/Licensing Authority Investigation.
 - Adverse Publicity.
- 3.3 Therefore, the consumption of limited quantities of beer and wine by Sixth Form pupils under the age of 18 under strict supervision but without a table meal in accordance with our policy must not occur on licensed premises, and any alcohol consumed in such circumstances must not have been purchased on behalf of, i.e. at the instigation of, any pupils under the age of 18.
- 3.4 The licensed premises at Lancing comprise:
- Dining Room
 - Great School Hall and Gallery
 - Megarry Dining Room
 - Sanderson Room
 - Theatre & Cherry Hall (pre-performance drinks must only be served to 18+)
 - The Pavilion
 - Lower Quad and any Marquee erected thereon
 - Swimming Pool
 - Sports Hall

Alternative venues must be used instead, for example:

- House common rooms
 - HMO
 - The Sixth Form Centre (Gallery above the Dining Hall)
- 3.5 Alcohol must under no circumstances be served to Sixth Formers whose parents have not completed the necessary consent form. Copies of these forms are collated and held by Reception, and the list of those pupils for whom consent has been given is held by Reception, and the list of those pupils for whom consent has been given is accessible to all staff within the 'permission lists' section of the staff area of the VLE.

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