

Alcohol Policy



Ellesmere College

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1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 Ellesmere is committed to promoting the health and well-being of the school community. In today's society, excess alcohol consumption although not acceptable, does nevertheless take place in all age ranges. Peers, the media, schools and the family all play an important role in shaping a child's view on alcohol.

2. Scope

- 2.1 This policy has been authorised by the Head and is available to parents and pupils on request. The policy relates to possession and consumption of alcohol and applies to all pupils at Ellesmere College irrespective of their age. The policy may also apply at times when a pupil is not in the care of the College. The procedures and sanctions may be adapted as appropriate to meet the policy aims and the circumstances of each case.
- 2.2 Alcohol: means intoxicating liquor of all descriptions (including beer, cider, wine and spirits) and this policy covers obtaining, consuming, and supplying alcohol.

3. Policy Aims

- 3.1 In line with the government we want to reduce alcohol misuse and the harm it causes.
- 3.2 To obey the law with regards to young people and alcohol consumption.
- 3.3 To educate young people on the sensible use of alcohol.
- 3.4 To give clear guidelines/rules on when alcohol consumption, whilst under school's care, is acceptable.
- 3.5 To outline the possible consequences of abusing the schools rules on alcohol.

4. Education

- 4.1 Alcohol Education will be taught during Science lessons, general studies, PSHE days, tutor periods and other relevant lessons in a manner appropriate to the pupil's level of understanding:
- 4.1.1 To enable pupils to make healthy, informed decisions by increasing knowledge, understanding, challenging attitudes and developing communication and social skills.
- 4.1.2 To provide accurate and age appropriate information about alcohol (be they positive or negative), associated with health risks and the law.
- 4.1.3 To help pupils develop an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience alcohol misuse.
- 4.1.4 We also aim to encourage a sensible attitude towards alcohol, for now and in the future.

5. Alcohol and the Law

5.1 Extracts from the “Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000”

- 5.1.1 169A.- Sale of intoxicating liquor to a person under 18.
(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, in licensed premises, he sells intoxicating liquor to a person under eighteen.
- 5.1.2 169C.- Purchase of intoxicating liquor by or for a person under 18.
(1) A person under eighteen shall be guilty of an offence if, in licensed premises, he buys or attempts to buy intoxicating liquor.
(2) A person shall be guilty of an offence if, in licensed premises, he buys or attempts to buy intoxicating liquor on behalf of a person under eighteen.
- 5.1.3 169D.- Exception to the section 169A-C offences.
Sections 169A(1), 169B(1), and 169C(1) and (2) of this Act do not apply where-
(a) the person under eighteen has attained the age of sixteen,
(b) the intoxicating liquor in question is beer, porter or cider, and
(c) its sale or purchase is for consumption at a meal in a part of the licensed premises which is not a bar and is usually set apart for the service of meals.

6. Drinking alcohol whilst under school care

6.1 Guidelines on when alcohol may be consumed:

	Pupils below the Sixth Form (whatever their age).	Pupils in the Sixth Form
6.1.1 Dinners on licensed premises. (Including meals on trips at home or abroad.)	No alcohol	May consume alcohol (no spirits at any time) subject to section 5.1.3 above. Consumption may not exceed a maximum of 5 units.
6.1.2 Internal school functions where alcohol is available for purchase.	No alcohol	May consume alcohol subject to section 5.1.3 above. (Exception: alcohol may be purchased by the parent or guardian of a pupil who has attained the age of 18 on behalf of that pupil only, regardless of having a meal).
6.1.3 Internal school functions where alcohol is provided.	No alcohol	According to custom and practice (no spirits at any time) but under no circumstances may consumption exceed a maximum of 5 units. (A standard glass of wine or regular beer equates to 2.3 units).

7. School Rules

7.1 No pupil of any age is allowed to bring alcohol into school, irrespective of the intention to consume. Empty bottles or cans will be deemed to have been consumed in school. Pupils must not bring the school into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the school at the time.

7.2 Consequences of breaking the rules

7.2.1 Each case will vary according to circumstances and all pupils should be aware that possession or use of alcohol could lead to expulsion from the College. Pupils who remain in the company of others who are drinking are deemed to have been caught drinking. The following table gives a guide to the sanctions that will normally apply. Generally the upper limits will apply.

OFFENCE	LOWER AND MIDDLE SCHOOL	SIXTH FORM
<p>7.1.1 Wines and Beers</p> <p>a. Involvement in wine, beer, 'alcopops' abuse</p> <p>b. Bringing on to premises</p> <p>c. Supplying to others</p> <p>d. Drunkenness</p>	<p>Suspension HM 1-3 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 1-3 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p>	<p>Suspension HM 1-3 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 1-3 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p> <p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p>
<p>7.1.2 Spirits</p> <p>a. Involvement in Spirits abuse</p> <p>b. Bringing on to premises</p> <p>c. Supplying to others</p> <p>d. Drunkenness</p>	<p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p>	<p>Suspension HM 3-5 days</p>
<p>7.1.3 Involvement in consumption of alcohol off site whilst under care of College (7.1.1 a, b, c, d and 7.1.2 a, b, c, d still apply)</p>	<p>Suspension HM 1-5 days</p>	<p>Suspension HM 1-5 days</p>
<p>7.1.4 Any of these offences in company with pupils in a lower year.</p>	<p>Suspension HM 5 days</p>	<p>Suspension HM 5 days</p>

7.2 Subsequent offences will lead to a higher level of punishment. Repeated suspensions will render a pupil liable to being required to leave the College.

8 Searches for alcohol

- 8.1 Searches: This is in line with the College's Behaviour and Discipline Policy on searching and confiscation (Appendix 3) and reiterated below:
- 8.1.1 Before any search is undertaken the pupil will usually be asked to consent. In seeking consent, the age and maturity of the pupil will be taken into account together with any special needs the pupil may have. Written consent will not usually be required.
 - 8.1.2 Where the Head or an authorised member of staff have reasonable grounds to suspect that a pupil may have a prohibited item, consent is not required and the search will be carried out, using reasonable force where appropriate.
 - 8.1.3 Searches will be carried out only on College premises or, if elsewhere, where the member of staff has lawful control or charge of the pupil, for example on a trip or in training settings.
 - 8.1.4 Alcohol which has been confiscated will be destroyed.

9 Testing

- 9.1 A pupil caught with alcohol will not need to be tested.
- 9.2 A pupil obviously intoxicated will not need to be tested.
- 9.3 A pupil suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol may be asked to give a breath test if necessary. The reason for this policy is:
- 9.3.1 to deter breaches of College Rules.
 - 9.3.2 to identify those involved.
 - 9.3.3 to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.
- 9.4 Informed Consent: The relevant consent to a test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives his / her informed consent in writing. The member of staff leading the investigation will determine whether or not the pupil is able to provide his consent and may request the additional opinion of a medically qualified member of staff.
- 9.5 Notifying Parents: Reasonable endeavours will be made, before a test is carried out, to notify a parent, guardian or education guardian of the requirement for a breath test and the reasons for that requirement.
- 9.6 Refusal: If a pupil refuses to be tested he / she will be asked to say why he / she has refused. The College will be entitled to draw inferences from his / her response and general demeanour. If a parent's consent is required and they refuse to consent to their child being tested, the College may draw inferences from the pupil's general demeanour.

9.7 Test Result: The College will treat a positive test, although not infallible, as evidence that the pupil has consumed alcohol.

10. Support

10.1 Through the medical centre the College has access to CHAT (Confidential Advice for Teenagers) through a life and wellbeing coach. It is College policy to offer entry to this programme to pupils who require it. Under normal circumstances the programme can be arranged to cause only minimal, if any, interference with a pupil's academic timetable. Referral can also then be made to a GP and/or CAMHS, depending on the severity of the alcohol use/addiction.

11. Monitoring and Review

11.1 This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or following the issue of any new guidance from the Department of Education or ISI.

11.2 The review will be carried out by the Deputy Head Pastoral and recommendation sent to the Head for authorisation.

Authorised by	The Head
Date	December 2024

Reviewed by	DHP
Date	December 2024

Effective date of policy	December 2024
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