

Alcohol policy

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Introduction

Cranleigh School's policy regarding alcohol is rooted in education, safeguarding and the promotion of responsible decision-making. The School recognises that pupils need clear, honest and age-appropriate education about alcohol, including its health effects, social risks, legal restrictions and impact on judgement, consent and personal safety.

The School's primary responsibility is to safeguard and promote the welfare of pupils. Alcohol must never compromise pupil safety, good order, supervision, or the School's ability to care properly for those in its charge.

The School's general position is that pupils may not possess, purchase, supply or consume alcohol while under the School's care, except in the limited, supervised and pre-approved circumstances set out in this policy. For the purposes of this policy, a pupil is considered to be under the School's care whenever the School has responsibility for their supervision, welfare or conduct, whether on or off the School site.

Pupils receive age-appropriate education about alcohol through the PSHE programme, tutorial provision, assemblies, house-based pastoral work and, where appropriate, external speakers.

Breaches of this policy will be treated as serious disciplinary matters and are likely to result in significant sanctions under the School's Behaviour and Discipline Policy. Where appropriate, the School will also consider any safeguarding, welfare or medical concerns arising from the incident before determining the appropriate response.

General rules for pupils

Unless a specific exception is set out in this policy and has been approved in advance:

- Pupils must not bring alcohol into School, consume alcohol while under the School's care, or supply alcohol to another pupil;
- While under the School's care, pupils are not allowed to purchase alcohol outside School other than at supervised social events agreed with the Senior Management Team. This includes all pupils aged 18 and over, and also applies to boarders who are staying in School at the weekend.
- Pupils must not store alcohol in boarding houses, lockers, bags, vehicles or any other place on School premises;
- Pupils must not return to School under the influence of alcohol, including where they have previously been in their parents' care, for example on a Sunday evening. If any pupil is found to be under the influence of alcohol in such situations it will likely constitute a disciplinary offence.
- No pupil may visit a public house, bar, club or other licensed premises while under the School's care unless this forms part of a School-approved and supervised activity.

Further guidelines

- Under no circumstances should any alcohol be given to a pupil below the Sixth Form.
- Spirits will never be offered to pupils.
- Where parental consent has been provided, members of the Sixth Form who are over the age of 16 may occasionally be offered alcohol (wine or beer) in moderation in informal situations

with Housemasters/Housemistresses, or with a sit-down meal that is supervised by members of staff, or as part of an organised social event that has been agreed with the Senior Management Team. Upper Sixth pupils may have a maximum of two alcoholic drinks, and Lower Sixth pupils a maximum of one alcoholic drink unless by prior arrangement with the Senior Management Team.

- At any Sixth Form social event at which alcohol is sold under the School's existing licence or, where necessary, by an appropriate temporary event notice or other event-specific licence, only members of the Upper Sixth who are aged 18 or over and where parental consent has been provided may buy alcohol for themselves. They may have a maximum of two alcoholic drinks (wine or beer) on any evening. No one else may buy or consume alcohol.
- The School operates wine and beer tasting societies whose purpose is to educate students about wine and beer. Attendance is restricted to Sixth Form pupils, and parental consent is required. The maximum amount of alcohol given to pupils on these occasions will be no more than the equivalent of two pints of beer / two regular size glasses of wine, but this may be spread across a number of smaller drinks.

Consent and permission

- Pupils will be made aware of whether parental consent has been given. Knowingly consuming alcohol without parental consent could constitute a disciplinary offence.
- On all occasions when alcohol is served, it is the responsibility of the member of Staff in charge to check that parental consent has been provided and do all that is reasonably possible to ensure that pupils do not consume any alcohol, unless under the conditions outlined above. All drinks must be served by a member of staff.
- If parents who have provided consent wish to withdraw their consent, they should do so by emailing their child's Housemaster / Housemistress.
- Parents and pupils are reminded that some medications (including some antibiotics) may interact unfavourably with alcohol. Where parents have given consent for their child to consume alcohol they are required to notify their child's Housemaster/Housemistress immediately if their child is taking medication which may interact adversely with alcohol. Where such notification is received, the School reserves the right to not permit the pupil to consume alcohol, even if parental consent remains in place. Pupils and parents are responsible for ensuring they follow the guidelines of any medication they are taking.