



## Pupil Alcohol Policy

*This policy has made reference to the DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools 2012.*

### Introduction

- 1.1.1 It is the policy of Repton School to work to protect its pupils from the dangers of alcohol abuse through careful controls being placed on the provision of alcohol within the school.
- 1.1.2 The school takes active steps through the PSHE programme from B Block (Year 9) upwards, through a process of education and awareness involving tutors and outside speakers, both in lessons and at social occasions, and through the work of doctors and the school nursing staff at the medical centre, to educate pupils on the health risks associated with drinking alcohol in order for them to make sensible, informed choices in later life.
- 1.1.3 'Within reason, unless instructions are given to the contrary by the trip leader, usually subject to SMT approval, it is assumed that school rules, especially those relating to alcohol, controlled substances, banned items, relationships and behaviour, apply on a trip as they would do in school' (EV Policy).
- 1.1.4 The School Rules state that 'pupils may not possess alcoholic liquor' nor may pupils 'drink alcoholic liquor except by invitation of a member of staff with the Headmaster's permission'. At no time therefore, may a pupil have independent access to alcohol either within the school or at any social event organised by the school: it must always be purchased and dispensed by a member of staff. The only exception to this might occur at a function at which the pupil is in the care of his/her parents.
- 1.1.5 The school would not usually interfere with domestic social arrangements on PWs or in the holidays, when pupils are in the care of their parents, but the school does seek, wherever possible, to involve the parental body in talks and presentations on alcohol and to communicate concerns on alcohol to the parental body either informally, through Houseparents, or more formally through the Headmaster's termly letter or in addresses to the parent body at Parents Meetings.

## **The Provision of Alcohol at Repton.**

- 2.1.1 The provision of alcohol to pupils must be in accordance with the stipulations made by the licensee of the school property, namely the Director of Facilities & Services, and in the light of consultation of the appropriate authorities.
- 2.1.2 No member of the lower school may ever be served alcohol by school staff or at a school occasion.
- 2.1.3 The school also seeks to develop a sensible approach to alcohol in the pupil body through its limited provision in the sixth form at a range of social events. At Sixth Form Socials, Meals Out at restaurants, in-house evenings and House Guest Dinners, a maximum of two alcoholic drinks is allowed but only if consumed as part of a proper, sit-down meal. The intention is to encourage pupils to see alcohol not as an end in itself but as part of a civilised social occasion. The only exceptions to this are if a pupil is 18, he or she will be allowed an alcoholic aperitif at a house Guest Dinner, before a House Supper or an alcoholic drink at other house events such as 18<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations or prefect meetings.
- 2.1.4 In addition, an 18 year old pupil is also allowed up to two alcoholic drinks at the JCR on a Saturday evening (see below). All other, 17 year old, members of the sixth form are restricted to soft drinks only.
- 2.1.5 In addition, pupils are allowed limited access to alcohol (again up to two alcoholic drinks) as part of the Pupil Dining initiative (see 4.1.v).
- 2.1.6 The school requires written permission from all parents of sixth formers for their child to be allowed alcohol at social events. This is given at the start of the lower sixth year and extends to the JCR and other social events.
- 2.1.7 Pupils may only be served wine, beer or cider as an alcoholic drink and of a strength and measure determined by the licensee in accordance with the regulations of the JCR. Pupils may not be served or purchase spirits at any time.
- 2.1.8 There is no compulsion for a pupil to drink alcohol at a social event. Soft drinks will always be provided both at these and in the JCR.
- 2.1.9 Any member of staff intending to provide alcohol at any function involving pupils, either on the school premises or at an outside venue, must first ask the permission of the Headmaster.
- 2.1.10 No member of staff, other than housemasters, should serve alcohol to pupils in their own homes.
- 2.1.11 There is a responsibility on the part of any member of staff serving or providing alcohol at a social function to monitor carefully the condition of any pupil present.
- 2.1.12 In the interests of pupil safety, the school reserves the right to refuse alcohol to a pupil and to send them back to the house from a social event of the JCR in order for them to be monitored appropriately.
- 2.1.13 If the school suspects a pupil of drinking alcohol in contravention of the school rules and this is denied by the pupil, the pupil may be asked to use a breathalyser or

alcohol-sensitive strips. If the pupil refuses to comply with this request, this may be taken as an admission of guilt.

- 2.1.14 A pupil is not allowed to arrive at the school after a holiday, or return from a trip or PW, in an intoxicated state.
- 2.1.15 A pupil should not drink alcohol at a school event, such as the interval of a play or at a house drinks party, even if the pupil is 18 and/or in the presence of his/her parents. The Leavers' Ball is the only exception to this rule and for the upper sixth only, who are the responsibility of their parents on that occasion.
- 2.1.16 In the event of suspicions that a pupil might have brought alcohol into school, a search may also be made, in accordance with the school's policy on conducting searches of pupil property (see Behaviour Management Policy).
- 2.1.17 There is a clear procedure for all investigative action set out in the Serious Incidents Protocol for Houseparents' and SMT to follow. In broad terms, houseparents' conduct the initial interview in keeping with school guidelines and maintain the connection between pupil, parents and SMT; the Deputy Head Pastoral leads the investigation, conducting a second interview, with the Principal Deputy Head (and the Headmaster) kept informed of developments while remaining separate from the investigative process in order to deliver a clearer judgment in its concluding stages.
- 2.1.18 Supply, possession, procurement or consumption of alcohol, taking any mitigating or aggravating factors into account, will warrant a significant sanction. Where spirits are involved, this will almost certainly lead to an exclusion. Where consumption is repeated or excessive, or life is endangered, any perpetrator or contributor involved could well receive a permanent exclusion.

## **The JCR**

- 3.1 The JCR is open to the whole Sixth Form on a daily basis during the week but operates as a licensed bar only during Saturdays from 9.00 pm until 10.15 pm, or infrequently on a Friday evening.
- 3.2 Members of the JCR must adhere strictly to its published regulations, in particular the requirement that only 18 year old pupils are allowed alcohol, the limits on alcohol consumption (up to 2 drinks), the need to sign in and out, and the procedure for making purchases.
- 3.3 Those pupils who are 18 are not allowed to purchase alcoholic drinks for younger pupils.
- 3.4 Membership of the JCR is subject to written permission from both parents and houseparents'.
- 3.5 Members must leave the JCR quietly and return directly to their Houses by 10.30 pm.
- 3.6 Only staff and current members of the JCR may enter its premises; ORs and other non-members may not do so.
- 3.7 No member of the School who is intending to drive (and with agreed permissions to drive in place) may consume any alcohol beforehand, whether in the JCR or in any other circumstance.
- 3.8 Day pupils intending to use the JCR on Saturday evening must remain in school throughout the day and obtain the permission of their Houseparents' to be on school premises after Lock-up on Saturdays and on Sundays.
- 3.9 No alcohol is served to the general pupil body in the JCR on nights other than a Saturday, although this may be allowed for special functions subject to the permission of the Headmaster and the meeting of all general requirements.

## **Socials and House Guest Evenings**

- 4.1 Sixth form entertainment takes the form of the following social occasions:
- i. A Social, or school disco. Sixth Form Socials are divided into two elements; the first based around a meal, with which alcohol may be consumed by any attending member of the sixth form, and the second around dancing or entertainment, at which no alcohol is served. No alcohol is served at junior socials.
  - ii. Guest Evenings: an invitational dinner for sixth formers hosted once a year by each house. Pupils may have up to two alcoholic drinks along with the meal.
  - iii. In-house meals or visits to restaurants. Pupils may have up to two alcoholic drinks along with the meal.
  - iv. Pupil Dining: a meal out unaccompanied by staff to a pub or restaurant in the village, booked by the Houseparent, adhering to the guidelines of that establishment, with clear timings established and the production of a detailed receipt on return to house. Only pupils who are 18 may buy alcohol. Pupils may have up to two alcoholic drinks along with the meal.
- 4.2 No alcohol is served at any junior social event.
- 4.3 The general rule is that only two alcoholic drinks are allowed at a sixth form social occasion and then only with a meal. The only exception to this is at a Guest Evening or House Supper, when those pupils who are 18 may have a glass of sparkling wine prior to the meal.

Reviewed Michaelmas 2023

THN