Downe House

ALCOHOL POLICY FOR GIRLS

1.0 Background

Downe House recognises the view that the *moderate* drinking of alcohol at an appropriate age is generally socially acceptable and that this should be reflected in the life of the community.

2.0 Aims

To set out the rules governing the consumption of alcohol on site or on school business.

3.0 Girls

No girls below the UV may be given alcohol on the School premises or at a school event.

Girls in the UV may have the equivalent of up to one small (125ml) glass of wine with a substantial sit down meal on the School premises or at a School organised event providing the approval of the HM or DHM has been given and that they are accompanied by School staff.

Girls in the Sixth Form may consume alcohol with a substantial sit down meal at School events at the discretion of the member of staff in charge, providing the approval of the HM or DHM has been given and that school staff accompany them. As a guideline, girls should have no more than the equivalent of two small (125ml) glasses of wine.

Girls in the Sixth Form may access the School bar at the discretion of the Headmistress and the Head of Sixth Form. The bar usually opens every Wednesday evening. Girls may consume a maximum of two glasses (125ml) of wine or two glasses of cider/beer with a meal. The School runs the bar as club in line with the Berkshire Licensing Law.

Any girl falling foul of the above would be subject to appropriate immediate disciplinary measures as laid out in the Behaviour and Discipline Policy.

If a girl is caught drinking, in the presence of drinkers, drunk or smelling of alcohol, or with alcohol in her possession without permission from the Headmistress or Deputy Headmistress she should be reported to her Housemistress/Housemaster (in her absence the Assistant Housemistress/Assistant Housemaster). If you are unsure of her name escort her back to the school building to the Boarding Deputy, Deputy Headmistress or another Senior member of staff, who should simply take her name, and send the girl away to wait in a designated area or areas e.g. alcove outside the Staff Room or to her House, as appears appropriate, pending the outcome. Staff will take into account a pupil's age in dealing with her.

If a Housemistress/Housemaster or Senior member of staff has reason to believe that a girl has drunk alcohol without permission, they may contact the Headmistress, Deputy Headmistress or Pastoral Deputy for permission to breathalyse the girl. Should the test prove positive, the following actions will be applied.

1. Girls who have alcohol in their possession without permission will have it taken away or disposed of
2. They will be gated and their parents notified
3. A girl holding a position of responsibility may lose It temporarily or permanently
4. A girl who has consumed alcohol without permission and/or whose consumption gives cause for concern may be required to go to the Medical Centre
5. Her parents will be notified and she may be suspended

This policy makes reference to the following School policy, a copy of which can be located on Merlin in the 'My Policies' section:

Behaviour and Discipline (Reviewer: DHM)

Revision History:

Revision	Date	Description of changes	Requested By
	November 2014	Reviewed	Areti Bizior
	November 2016	Reviewed – Amendments shown in green	Areti Bizior

Review

This policy will be reviewed biennially by the Deputy Headmistress.

Review Leader: Deputy Headmistress
Reviewed: November 2016
Next Review: November 2018