



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 consume alcohol on the School premises or at any 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 an offsite School organised event providing the approval of the Headmistress (HM) or Deputy Headmistress (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 (onsite or offsite) 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. Girls should have no more than the equivalent of two small (125ml) glasses of wine.

With parental permission, girls in the Sixth Form may access the School bar at the discretion of the Headmistress and the Head of Sixth Form. Girls may consume a maximum of two small (125ml) glasses of wine 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 and as shown below.

4.0 Procedure

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 escorted to her Housemistress (in her absence the Assistant Housemistress). The incident must be reported to the Headmistress, Deputy Headmistress, Boarding Deputy or other Senior member of staff.

The Headmistress may give permission to breathalyse the girl to confirm the consumption of alcohol.

A girl whose condition gives cause for concern may be required to go to the Medical Centre.

5.0 Sanctions

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. Her parents will be notified and she may be placed on Headmistress' Report or 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)