

Alcohol Policy
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Date	Review Date	Contact
01.09.18	01.09.19	Principal

### Policy Aims

The aims of the school's alcohol policy are:

- To provide accurate information relating to alcohol use and abuse.
- To enable pupils to make sensible decisions and informed choices, including the choice of abstinence, the benefits of moderate consumption at an appropriate time and the dangers of excess, based on their understanding of the use and abuse of alcohol.
- To enable young people to identify sources of appropriate personal support if they need guidance in relation to alcohol.
- To provide clear information about rules relating to access to alcohol and the consequences of any breach.

### Education

We seek to achieve these aims through a whole school approach to alcohol education, which is principally based on delivery via the PHSE curriculum, but also in other contexts. Pupils are advised on a regular basis that, for safety reasons, they should not cover up for a friend who has consumed an excess of alcohol and that the Principal, Student Services Manager and house parents should always be informed about this.

### Access

Alcohol is prohibited in all circumstances.

### Sanctions

The consumption, possession, purchase or supply of alcohol is always treated as a serious offence, and may result in expulsion. However, at the Principal's discretion, each offence is considered on its own merits and there may be features which are taken into consideration on each occasion.

### Policy for managing students under the influence of alcohol or other unknown intoxicating substances

Although Newbury Hall has a strict policy for the non consumption of alcohol or any other intoxicating substances at any time, unfortunately, at times they may break the rules to test the set limits and boundaries. Therefore, staff need to be aware of the signs of alcohol intoxication and its effect.

### THE EFFECTS OF ALCOHOL

- Alcohol depresses the nerves that control involuntary actions such as breathing and the gag reflex, which prevents choking. A large intake of alcohol will eventually stop these functions.
- It is common for someone who has drunk too much alcohol to vomit. This is because alcohol irritates the lining of the stomach. The danger is that the student could choke on his/her vomit which would cause death by asphyxiation in an unconscious student.
- The blood alcohol level continues to rise even after the student has become unconscious. Even after the student stops drinking, the alcohol in the stomach and digestive tract continues to be absorbed into the bloodstream and circulate through the body. It is therefore dangerous to assume that the person will be fine by allowing them to 'sleep it off'.

### **SIGNS OF ALCOHOL INTOXICATION**

- Mental confusion, stupor, coma or the student cannot be woken up.
- Vomiting
- Seizures
- Slow breathing – fewer than 8 breaths per minute.
- Irregular breathing – 10 seconds or more between breaths.
- Hypothermia (low body temperature)
- Pale skin colour
- Smell of alcohol

### **PROCEDURE FOR MANAGING ACUTE ALCOHOL INTOXICATION OR POISONING**

- Familiarise yourself with the danger signals.
- Do not wait for all the symptoms to be present.
- Put the student into the recovery position if they are unconscious and to prevent choking if they are vomiting.
- Do not try to guess the level of intoxication.
- Call the ambulance.
- Do not leave the student alone.

### **POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF UNTREATED ALCOHOL INTOXICATION**

- Choking on own vomit
- Breathing slows, becomes irregular or stops
- Heart beats irregularly or stops
- Hypothermia
- Hypoglycaemia – low blood sugar which can lead to seizures.
- Untreated severe dehydration from vomiting which can lead to seizures, permanent brain damage or death. Alcohol intoxication can lead to irreversible brain damage. Rapid binge drinking, which often happens as a bet or dare, is especially dangerous because the student can ingest a fatal dose before becoming unconscious.

### **REPORTING INCIDENTS**

Every incident relating to the use or abuse of alcohol or any other intoxicating substance should be reported to the Principal and an incident form completed by the attending person or person on duty.

**Signed:**

**Date:** 01/09/18



**Jon Crocker**  
Principal