

ROEDEAN

Alcohol Policy for Students

Did You Know?

Alcohol use among children and young people is growing faster than the use of any other drug in the UK and it causes the most widespread problems. Alcohol is also the least regulated and most heavily marketed drug (Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs 2006).

The number of children and young people aged 11–15 who drink alcohol has fallen since 2001. However, those who do drink alcohol consume more – and more often (HM Government 2007). In 2006, 21% of those aged 11–15 who had drunk alcohol in the previous week consumed an average 11.4 units – up from 5.3 units in 1990. Drinking prevalence increased with age: 3% of pupils aged 11 had drunk alcohol in the previous week compared with 41% of those aged 15 (The Information Centre for Health and Social Care 2007).

Children and young people aged 11–15 who regularly smoke or drink are much more likely than non-smokers and non-drinkers to use other drugs (Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs 2006).

In 2003 in the UK, 8% of young people aged 15–16 reported having unprotected sex after drinking alcohol (11% females, 6% males). Eleven per cent of all those in this age group who had (unprotected or protected) sex as a result of drinking alcohol subsequently regretted it (12% females, 9% males) (Hibbell et al. 2004).

Under UK law, children and young people can consume different types of alcohol in different contexts, depending on their age. For instance, young people aged 16 or 17 may consume beer, cider or wine with a meal when under adult supervision on licensed premises. **In all other circumstances, it is illegal for anyone under 18 to ‘knowingly’ consume alcohol on licensed premises, or to buy or attempt to buy alcohol.**

At Roedean the Headmistress is responsible for:

- the health and safety of all school members
- maintaining a safe learning environment
- making sure that you are fully aware of the risks associated with alcohol consumption

In order to ensure a safe environment and to protect your health and wellbeing, the consumption of alcohol in school is forbidden to all girls below the Sixth Form. Sixth Form students, may on occasion, consume alcohol in a supervised setting.

The School will ensure:

- All pupils receive education about alcohol use and alcohol issues through the curriculum
- Any pupil having problems with drinking is provided with access to confidential support
- Social occasions for staff and the school community are planned carefully to ensure they promote responsible drinking.

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We ask pupils to ensure that:

- They do not bring alcohol on to the school site
- They are not under the influence of alcohol whilst on the school site

If pupils do bring alcohol on to the school premises, or appear to have been drinking alcohol and return to school intoxicated, the following will apply:

1. Student suspected of being under the influence of alcohol

If the incident is on site, the student will be referred to the Health Centre.

They will be withdrawn from lessons for an appropriate period and, if a day girl, arrangements may be made for parents to collect them.

The school will always inform parents.

Being under the influence of alcohol will be viewed seriously and may lead to a suspension, although each case will be considered individually. Repeated occurrences could lead to the pupil being asked to leave the school.

2. Student found with alcohol

The student may be withdrawn from lessons and, if necessary, arrangements made to transfer them home.

The possession or supply of alcohol on the school site or as part of a school activity will be viewed seriously and may lead to a suspension, although each case will be considered individually. Repeated occurrences could lead to the pupil being asked to leave the school.

The school will always inform parents and may inform the police of the names of the pupils involved in serious alcohol related incidents.