



Alcohol Policy

CHARTERHOUSE



This policy should be read in conjunction with the School rules, the policy on Professional Conduct and the National Minimum Standards for Boarding.

CONTEXT AND AIMS

Charterhouse is committed to the health and safety of all members of its community. We encourage pupils to make healthy and informed choices by increasing their knowledge, as well as developing and practising their decision-making skills.

The School's intentions in respect of the consumption of alcohol are to educate pupils about the sensible use of alcohol, the dangers of its abuse both personally, and in a broad understanding of related health and social issues. Alcohol should be served in School only with these intentions in mind and/or in keeping with social convention and the School's tradition of hospitality. The School also encourages respect for those who choose not to drink.

Education in the use and abuse of alcohol is an essential part of the School's PSHE programme. The topic is revisited regularly throughout a pupil's time at Charterhouse in order to make clear the School's position on alcohol. The School aims to work closely with parents to this end. Dedicated talks by specialist speakers, reinforced by Tutors and Housemasters, address the question of healthy consumption. Associated issues such as consent and safe driving are included, such as the "Safe Drive, Stay Alive" event for First Year Specialists.

This policy serves to clarify and contextualise the School rules associated with alcohol:

"You must not bring anything to School which is harmful to yourself and others. The importing of....alcohol.... – and anything else which common sense dictates is harmful – may lead to suspension or expulsion in the most serious cases."

"You may drink alcohol in Club or with the permission of a beak or otherwise in accordance with the Alcohol Policy. Bringing alcohol into School or drinking contrary to the School's alcohol policy will probably lead to suspension. Supplying alcohol to others, excessive or repeated drinking may lead to expulsion."

The policy is also determined by the UK laws on alcohol use. The relevant laws state:

It is against the law:

- To sell alcohol to someone under 18 anywhere.



POLICY ON ALCOHOL

CHARTERHOUSE

- For an adult to buy or attempt to buy alcohol on behalf of someone under 18. (Retailers can reserve the right to refuse the sale of alcohol to an adult if they are accompanied by a child and think the alcohol is being bought for the child.)
- For someone under 18 to buy alcohol, attempt to buy alcohol or to be sold alcohol.
- For someone under 18 to drink alcohol in licensed premises, except where the child is 16 or 17 years old and accompanied by an adult. In this case it is legal for them to drink, but not buy, beer, wine and cider with a table meal.
- For an adult to buy alcohol for someone under 18 for consumption on licensed premises, except as above.

It is not illegal:

- For someone over 18 to buy a child over 16 beer, wine or cider if they are eating a table meal together in licensed premises.
- For a child aged five to 16 to drink alcohol at home or on other private premises.

The risks of alcohol consumption vary according to age and the legal position effectively makes a distinction between those aged 18, children aged 16-17 and under-16s. Accordingly, the School distinguishes between alcohol consumption by Specialists and Under School pupils; it is never appropriate for Under School pupils to consume alcohol in School and those who do so can expect to be suspended. With all these aspects to the question of alcohol consumption, the School aims (i) to state clearly the rules and legislative framework, (ii) to educate coherently, and (iii) to deter misuse of alcohol through disciplinary action, as appropriate.

APPLICATION OF THESE RULES TO CHARTERHOUSE

1. Overview:

- a) Alcohol must never be served to an Under School pupil nor should Under School pupils consume any alcohol.
- b) All pupils responsible for bringing alcohol to School can expect to be suspended.
- c) No spirits, alcopops or high-alcohol beers / ciders may be served to pupils.
- d) Consumption limits for Specialists are: 4 units (as defined and explained below).

2. Pupils should never serve themselves alcohol

Adults should always be present and on duty in accordance with the Professional Conduct Policy (especially paragraph 45).



CONSUMPTION LIMITS

3. Over 18s Club

- 'Club' is open on a Friday between 9.00 pm and 10.00 pm from the start of LQ for Second Year Specialists who are over the age of 18.
- Pupils may only purchase one drink at a time, which must be for their own consumption.
- No spirits, high-alcohol beers, ciders or alcopops may be served. Water and soft drinks must be available.
- Pupils over 18 are allowed a maximum of four units of alcohol. In practical terms, this roughly equates to three wine glasses of 110ml, two pints (or, alternatively, 1 litre) of normal-strength beer. However a responsible adult may restrict a pupil to less than this, in view of different individuals' susceptibility to intoxication. In view of the varying sizes of bottles and glasses, the responsible adult should exercise judgement in imposing limits, to comply as far as possible, with the guidelines here.
- Information on alcohol units should be posted and easily visible to pupils.
- No pupils may go behind the bar.
- Members of the 'House of the Week' team must be present whenever Over 18s Club is open.
- Offenders against the rules must be reported to their Housemasters who will in turn report to the Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral) and the Master in Charge of Club.

4. Other supervised drinking

There may be occasions apart from Club when beaks sanction pupils' drinking. These are not to be discouraged, but should only take place under the following conditions:

- Alcohol must not be purchased by an adult as an agent on behalf of pupils in order to supply them, and no specific charge can be made to pupils to this effect.
- The permission of the Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral) must be granted before drinks can be offered by a member of staff except Housemasters providing alcohol to their own pupils
- The Housemaster of every pupil at such an event must be asked first by the Master in Charge for their specific approval. Housemasters must make beaks aware of pupils' taking medication that is likely to affect their susceptibility to alcohol or where alcohol is contraindicated.



POLICY ON ALCOHOL

CHARTERHOUSE

- Soft drinks must always be available as an alternative to alcohol.
- The same consumption limits apply as under “Over 18s Club” above.

5. Public houses

Only pupils over 18 are allowed to visit specified public houses on Saturday evenings. They must have their Housemaster’s express written permission and carry a proof of age card. The Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral) must be informed of the names of pupils, as well the public houses concerned. Pub leave is not available to anyone on Saturday nights preceding a morning Chapel service. The same consumption limits apply as under “Over 18s Club” above.

6. Restaurant leave

- Restaurant leave is available for Second Year Specialists on Saturday nights except those preceding morning Chapel (or Friday nights after Exeat in CQ) with their Housemaster’s specific permission between 7.30 pm and 10.00 pm.
- Pupils must state which restaurant they intend to visit (normally Godalming only) and a booking should be made in advance. Groups should exceed no more than six, transport must be by taxi there and back.
- The Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral) must be informed of the names of pupils, as well the name of the restaurant concerned.
- No alcohol may be consumed unless one of the group is over 18 and this person purchases the alcoholic drinks for consumption while seated at a table meal in the restaurant.
- Only beer or wine can be purchased with this table meal.
- The same consumption limits apply as under “Over 18s Club”, above.
- Restaurant leave is not available on Saturday nights preceding a morning Chapel service. An exception is made for an 18th Birthday celebration, where the birthday is + or – four days from the Saturday.

The School expects all staff, parents and visitors to support this policy.

7. Unsupervised drinking

- There should be no unsupervised drinking at School or on School expeditions.
- Infringements of the Alcohol Policy should be reported:



POLICY ON ALCOHOL

CHARTERHOUSE

- During Quarter to the Deputy Headmaster (Pastoral)
- During School trips, to the duty SLT member

The drinking guidelines in this policy apply to all School trips.

EMERGENCIES AND WELFARE

If a pupil is encountered who is seriously intoxicated it is essential that they are put immediately into the recovery position and adult assistance summoned. Remember that misuse of alcohol can be fatal. The Housemaster and Hunt Health Centre must be made aware as soon as possible.

If a pupil is found under the influence of alcohol, the initial priority is the well-being of the individual. Help should be sought from the Hunt Health Centre (291691) and, if necessary, Security (291777).

Subsequent action will be determined and agreed by the Hunt Health Centre and the House staff. It may be necessary to monitor the pupil until the effects of the alcohol wear off and in severe cases the pupil will be admitted to the Hunt Health Centre and supervision provided by nursing staff. If a pupil is seriously ill then the Housemaster should inform parents as soon as possible. The School reserves the right to require parents to take their child home or to their guardian in such circumstances. The pupil will only be allowed to return to their House or Hostel on the advice and direction of the Hunt Health Centre.

Pastoral support will be offered after the incident. The pupil will later be asked to explain how they came to be in such a condition.