



Yehudi
Menuhin
School

ALCOHOL EDUCATION POLICY FOR PUPILS

Policy Owned By:	Deputy Head (Pastoral)	Autumn 2023
Reviewed By:	Leadership Team	Autumn 2023
Governor Review By:	Education & Welfare Committee	

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Revision History

Revision	Revision
Autumn 2021	New Policy. This policy was partially covered under P3 Behaviour Management Policy but has been significantly expanded and is now an individual policy.
Autumn 2023	Minor changes to clarify roles of staff and parents/guardians

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
Gating	A term used to describe a school sanction meaning that a pupil is not allowed to leave the School grounds except in an emergency, for medical treatment or to participate in scheduled musical performances.
PSHE/RSE	Personal Social Health Education / Relationship and Sex Education

Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent

1. This policy is for the staff, pupils and parents at The Yehudi Menuhin School and sets out the school's approach to pupil provision with, and consumption of, alcohol on the school site or during any concert/social event during which pupils are under the direct supervision and responsibility of the school.

Rationale

2. As with all our policies, the welfare of each pupil is our priority and at the core of all we do.
3. It is the School's policy to educate pupils about the sensible use of alcohol and the dangers of its misuse and abuse. Senior pupils will encounter events where alcohol is served to adults, such as at the interval in or after concert performances in the Menuhin Hall and should know what appropriate behaviour is for them around alcohol as a social/recreational drink. Alcohol should be served in the School only in the furtherance of this policy.
4. Education in the use, misuse and abuse of alcohol is an essential part of the school's PSHE/RSE programme.
5. Whilst consuming alcohol in moderation can be regarded as an enjoyable aspect of adult life, it must be remembered that alcohol is a depressant drug that can have an adverse effect on the adolescent brain. It must also be remembered that it is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to purchase alcohol.
6. The Yehudi Menuhin School encourages a mature approach by young adults to alcohol consumption, as well as respect for those who choose not to drink. Because the risks of alcohol consumption are age-related, and because there are different legal positions according to age, this policy also makes a clear distinction between alcohol consumption by Sixth Form pupils ('A's) and by younger pupils ('B's, 'C's and 'D's). To achieve this, the school sets out to state rules clearly, to educate coherently, and to deter through disciplinary action, where appropriate.
7. The school expects all staff, parents and visitors to support the policy and role-model sensible behaviour for the benefit of all.

Alcohol Education

8. It is important that the School makes its position on alcohol clear so that pupils receive consistent messages. If alcohol is drunk in sensible amounts by adults, it may produce feelings of relaxation, and health risks are considerably reduced if drinkers keep below the recommended levels. However, even at low levels, the potential for serious accidents increases. Excessive consumption of alcohol can be fatal and will almost certainly lead to health problems later in life. The disinhibiting

effects of alcohol can lead to other problems such as unwanted and/or unprotected sexual activity. Underage drinking is a challenging social problem and there are increasing pressures on young people to experiment with alcohol.

9. In addition to the steps taken to control access to and consumption of alcohol, the School understands that it is important to provide appropriate education about the dangers, as well as the safe use, of alcohol. Such education is delivered to pupils in each year-group via the school's PSHE/RSE programme, the curriculum for which is intended to help pupils make sensible and mature decisions relating to alcohol consumption. The risks associated with reduced inhibition, health concerns, implications surrounding consent and sexual relationships, and safe driving are covered within these talks. In support of our education programme, we promote a responsible approach to drinking through the implementation of the guidance detailed in The School's Approach to Alcohol, below.
10. A strong partnership between the school and parents is essential if our pupils are to receive a consistent and well-informed message about a sensible approach to alcohol consumption.

The Law

11. Alcohol consumption in the UK is governed by strict laws. The underage purchase of alcohol is an offence: it refers to the purchase of alcohol by anybody under the age of 18. An individual aged under 18 commits an offence if he or she knowingly consumes alcohol on licensed premises. The law, however, allows an exception to this where:
 - The individual is aged 16 or 17; and
 - The alcohol consumed is beer, wine or cider; and
 - Its consumption is part of a table meal on relevant premises; and
 - The individual is accompanied at the meal by an individual aged 18 or over,
 - Pupils must note that they cannot act as the 'individual' for another pupil.

The School's Approach to Alcohol

12. Alcohol must never be consumed by pupils who are 'D's, 'C's or 'B's (Years 5 to 11) who are under 18 years of age. No spirits, high-alcohol beers or ciders, or alcopops may be served to any pupil.
13. No pupils of any age may bring alcohol onto the school site at any time.
14. No pupil who is under 18 may drink alcohol while at School, unless they are supervised by a member of staff under the authority of the Head or Deputy Head (Pastoral), and with the express written permission of the pupil's parents.

15. No one under 18 may drink when out with friends (e.g., at a concert or in London for the day).
16. Pupils who are 18 and over may have a drink with friends but must not return to school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
17. Under 18s may have a drink with their parent/guardian if they are at a private home or in a restaurant. Again, though, we ask that they do not return to school clearly under the influence of alcohol.
18. Other pupils over 18 do **not** count as the guardian or responsible adult of a minor.

Pupils in the 'D's, 'C's and 'B's (Years 5-11)

19. No alcohol is to be consumed by year groups below the 'A's (Year 12+). Pupils in the 'D's, 'C's and 'B's (Years 5-11) may be breathalysed if there is concern that they have consumed alcohol. Pupils in these years may not visit public houses, unless accompanied by their own parents/guardian/close family member, or with parents/guardian of a friend, providing written consent has been obtained from the parents in advance. Breaches of this school rule may result in sanctions detailed below. The underage purchase of alcohol, or pupils of any age bringing alcohol into school, may result in suspension. To protect pupils from unfair accusation, we request that the Deputy Head (Pastoral) is notified beforehand if a pupil is to bring alcohol into the School as a gift for a member of staff.

Pupils in the 'A's (Year 12+)

20. Pupils entering the 'A's will be required to consider their behaviour in relation to access to alcohol, and to discuss this with their parents. Each pupil will then be required to sign an Alcohol Contract acknowledging their individual responsibilities in respect of this policy. A copy of this Alcohol Contract can be found in [Appendix 1](#), below.
21. 'A's may be served alcohol in specific circumstances, outlined below. At any event when alcohol is available, non-alcoholic alternatives will be available and clearly identified. When alcohol is offered to 'A's, the following guidelines must be adhered to:
 - Those 'A's who are over 18 years old, and who wish to consume alcohol, will be allowed to drink up to two small glasses of wine or two pints of moderate strength cider or beer, usually with a meal.
 - Pupils may be breathalysed on a random basis on return to their boarding house. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils. A record of breathalysing is maintained in the boarding house, which is inspected periodically by the Director of Pastoral Care.

- The consumption of spirits is not permitted under any circumstances.
- Alcohol is purchased by Boarding Staff/Leadership Team for specific events only and in quantities tailored to cater for that event only. Alcohol is securely locked away prior to any event.
- The purchase, possession or consumption of alcohol outside these guidelines is not permissible and would be considered to be a major breach of the pupil code of conduct.
- Breaches of any of the above may result in sanctions detailed below.

Boarding Houses

22. Alcohol may be served to 'A's if all of the following rules are satisfied:

- It is provided for 'A's only.
- It is provided by the Houseparent directly and consumption by pupils is under their direct supervision.
- Pupils are not charged for the alcohol.
- Alcohol must not be purchased by an adult as an agent on behalf of pupils in order to supply them.

Outside the Boarding House

23. Outside the boarding house, consumption of alcohol by pupils is only allowed at:

- Officially organised events with the prior approval of, and overseen by, a member of the Leadership Team (such as dinner with a visiting speaker), OR
- Saturday evening social events, which must comply with the [Licensing Act \(2003\)](#). The expectation is that food will be available at these events.

24. Pupils are not permitted to consume alcohol at the Menuhin Hall, unless at a private event under supervision of School management.

'A's visiting Public Houses in Cobham

25. Those pupils who are over 18 years of age may visit public houses on a Saturday night and consume alcohol in accordance with licensing laws. They must also, however, adhere to the details of this policy, as they will be returning to school. Permission is granted at the Houseparent's discretion, and only if supported by written permission from the parent(s). Pupils must carry ID showing proof of age.

26. 'A's who are under the age of 18 will be permitted to visit the public houses but will not be permitted to consume alcohol there. All 'A's un

27. der the age of 18 may be breathalysed on their return to the boarding house, to prove that they have consumed no alcohol that evening.

28. Behaviour whilst in Cobham (or any other location) is expected to be exemplary and legal, and not to bring the School into disrepute.

Consumption of Alcohol Away from the School Site

29. The rules of this policy apply during any occasion when pupils are under the responsibility and care of the school (e.g., expeditions, trips, off-site activities, overseas visits, during transit home or to guardians during School holidays).

30. House staff (or members of staff on a trip or expedition) must report any abuse of alcohol to the Deputy Head (Pastoral).

Emergencies and Welfare

31. 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. It is crucial to remember that misuse of alcohol can be fatal. The Deputy Head (Pastoral) 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 School Nurse (when on duty) and/or the House Parent.
- The Deputy Head (Pastoral) should be notified as soon as possible.
- It may be necessary to monitor the pupil until the effects of the alcohol wear off.
- If a pupil is seriously ill, the Houseparent should inform parents as soon as possible. The school reserves the right to require parents or guardians to take their child home in such circumstances.
- When necessary, outside medical support, including from emergency services, will be sought for pupils who are suffering from the effects of excessive intoxication.
- Pastoral support – which may include outside agencies – will be offered after the incident. The pupil will later be asked to explain how they came to be in such condition.
- Subsequent action will be determined and agreed by the Deputy Head (Pastoral) with the Head.
- Parents will be notified if a pupil becomes intoxicated. If the matter is not considered urgent, based on the judgment of the Deputy Head (Pastoral) in consultation with Health Centre staff, the parents will be notified as soon as reasonably practicable by the pupil's Houseparent.

Sanctions relating to breaches of the school's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils

32. Access to alcohol by pupils is considered a privilege which can be withdrawn should the pupil's conduct deem it necessary. In addition to this, other sanctions may be applied to offences relating to alcohol.
33. The possible sanctions range from gating to permanent exclusion, depending upon the exact circumstances of the incident. Sanctions also include withdrawal of the privilege of access to alcohol at school social events or in the boarding houses for a specified time period. In all cases, a pupil's parents will be informed of the action being taken, normally by the Houseparent.
34. Incidents involving the consumption of spirits, or the provision of alcohol to pupils in the 'B's, 'C's and 'D's, are considered to be very serious breaches of this policy and of school rules. Pupils involved in such incidents should expect a sanction matching the seriousness of the incident. In repeated or particularly serious single cases of misconduct relating to alcohol, including the provision of alcohol to pupils in the 'B's, 'C's or 'D's, expulsion from the school may be deemed the most appropriate response.
35. Pupils in the 'B's, 'C's or 'D's who breach the school's alcohol policy in any way should expect to be suspended. Repeated offenses will be treated as major breaches and would normally result in an escalated sanction.
36. Bringing alcohol into the school may introduce a risk to other pupils and will be dealt with very seriously. Any pupil found to have brought alcohol into school should expect any of the disciplinary sanctions to be applied, including permanent expulsion from the school.

Appendix 1: A1, A2, A3 (Year 12+) Alcohol Contract: Parental Permission

The School recognises that there is a significant shift in its policy between the approach to younger pupils ('D's, 'C's and 'B's), for whom alcoholic drinks are never supplied, and to those in Year 12+ ('A's), where on certain social occasions and with clear controls in place, alcoholic drinks may be made available to pupils. It is right, therefore, to use the occasion of entry to the 'A's to ask parents and pupils to consider the school's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils.

By choosing to drink alcohol at school social events or in public houses with the school's permission, pupils in the 'A's agree to abide by the limits set by the school (measured using breathalysers). At school events, they agree to drink only alcohol supplied by the school, such as at a concert or at school or House events during term time. In addition, pupils agree to abide by the conditions set out in the School's Alcohol Education Policy for Pupils if they exercise the privilege of visiting public houses, once agreed by the School.

Parental permission must be given for 'A's to be served alcohol at school functions, including Saturday evening social events, during term time. We ask that parents discuss this matter carefully with their Children. 'A's will also be asked to sign this form at the start of the academic year in A1, A2 and A3, to confirm that they have read, understood and will abide by the school's Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy. Acceptance of the school's Terms and Conditions assumes acceptance of the YMS Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy.

Parents may wish to withhold their permission until such time as they feel confident their child is capable of mature independent decision-making with respect to alcohol. Parents who withhold permission at the start of a pupil's time as an 'A' at YMS may do so in writing to their child's Houseparent. Likewise, parents may give their permission at any time subsequently, in writing, to their child's Houseparent. Equally, parents may, for whatever reason, withdraw their consent at any time, by notifying their child's Houseparent in writing (by email or letter).

Signing the agreement below also indicates an understanding that a pupil who does not abide by the school Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy will be liable to disciplinary consequences. These may include withdrawal of the privilege of access to alcohol at school social events or public houses for a specified time period, as well as the range of sanctions outlined in the Alcohol Education for Pupils Policy.

Parents or guardians of pupils who are intoxicated may be required to take pupils home for one-to-one supervision, for the safety and well-being of the pupil.

I have discussed this policy with my parents and I accept the conditions outlined in this contract and agree to abide by the School's Alcohol Education for Pupil Policy.

Pupil Name:

Pupil Signature.....

Parent Signature

Date.....