

Benenden School is keen to promote an appropriate awareness of all the issues surrounding the consumption of alcoholic drinks and to encourage our pupils to adopt a responsible enjoyment of alcohol through supervised social occasions.

No pupil under the age of 16 may be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances in school or on any educational visits.

Our PSHEE programme includes important information and training on alcohol awareness at all stages of a pupil's education.

Drinking in School

Members of the Lower School (IV to UV) or members of the Sixth Form under the age of 16 may not be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances in school.

There are a number of occasions where members of the Sixth Form have the opportunity to drink an alcoholic beverage while in school, under the supervision of either their Hm, or of a member of staff responsible for the particular event.

1. The Founders (Sixth Form) Bar is open on a number of Saturday evenings each term as part of the weekend programme. It is always supervised by an Hm and only those Sixth Formers who have parental permission may have an alcoholic drink. This is always accompanied by a meal.
2. Staff organising an event where alcohol will be served must always ensure that the Hm is aware that the pupil may be offered wine. (Hms may be aware if a pupil is taking any medication that should not be combined with alcohol. Hms to make Sixth Formers aware of possible dangers of combining medication with alcohol). The Assistant Head (Sixth Form) should be informed if an 18th birthday party in House will include alcohol.
3. No spirits may be offered to pupils.
4. Pupils may not have alcohol at more than one such event in any day.
5. Wine may only be offered to pupils with a meal at a table.
6. The only exception to this is when pupils may be offered wine in the flat of an Hm or the home of a member of staff on site.
7. When this happens, the alcohol must not have been bought for the specific purpose of entertaining pupils but is simply an extension of normal hospitality (to be clear, alcohol must not be purchased by an adult as an agent on behalf of pupils in order to supply them and thus no charge may be billed to them).
8. Whenever wine is offered there must also be a range of non-alcoholic drinks on offer.
9. Normally a pupil should not drink more than two small glasses of wine at any school event where alcohol is offered under the above terms.
10. Pupils must not be responsible for serving alcohol at any school event.
11. Staff supervising any such event should keep a watchful eye on pupil consumption and be prepared to act if they have any concerns with an individual pupil or group of pupils.
12. Staff supervising such an event are responsible for arranging for the safe keeping and removal of any alcohol associated with the event.
13. Any pupil who does not obey these guidelines must be reported to the Deputy Head Boarding and Pastoral and to their Hm.
14. Sanctions may be issued and/or support offered for any pupil breach of the policy.

Drinking out of School while under the care of staff

1. Staff leading educational visits must make it clear to pupils that the same rules apply as for drinking in school (except in the US, India or other countries where pupils do not meet the local minimum age for drinking).
2. Wine may only be offered to pupils over the age of 16 with a formal sit-down meal at a table.
3. Members of the Lower School (IV to UV) or members of the Sixth Form under the age of 16 may not be offered alcoholic drinks under any circumstances on educational visits.

Unsupervised Drinking

1. There should be no unsupervised drinking at school or on educational visits.
2. Hms or leaders of educational visits must report any abuse of alcohol to the Deputy Head Boarding and Pastoral.
3. Under-age purchasing of alcohol, bringing alcohol into school or supplying it to other pupils will result in punishment under the sanctions for abuse of alcohol in the [Pupil Behaviour Policy](#).

For students aged 18+ years

The law states that, if a person is under 18, it is illegal for them to buy alcohol (this includes in any shop or supermarket, off licenses, bars, clubs or restaurants and buying on line).

It is also illegal to buy alcohol for someone under 18 in a licensed premises, the only exception is for 16 or 17 year-olds who are allowed to drink beer, wine or cider with food if with an adult (but they may not buy the alcohol themselves).

1. Members of the Six Two may apply through their Hm to have a pub meal locally on a Saturday evening. Only those over the age of 18 may purchase alcohol and this must be restricted to no more than two small glasses of wine, cider or beer with the meal. Spirits must never be purchased. It is not illegal for someone over 18 to buy a pupil aged over 16 if they are eating a table meal together in licensed premises. Parental permission must have been obtained.
2. Members of the Grey Jumper body may also apply through their Hm to have a pub meal locally on a Friday evening from the start of their final Spring Term. The same rules apply about consumption and parental permission as above.
3. On such trips the pupils must specifically check in with their Hms on return.
4. The means of travel to and from the pub must also be agreed with the Hm.

Emergencies

At any school events where alcohol is being served, staff must be vigilant about who has access to it and plan before the event how alcohol consumption is to be monitored. Alcohol must not be left where pupils could gain access unsupervised.

If staff ever discover a pupil who appears to be intoxicated, seek appropriate help from their Hm and/or the Medical Centre. It may be necessary to put them into the recovery position before doing anything else. Remember that misuse of alcohol can be fatal.