

## Alcohol Policy

Adopted	September 2014
Reviewed	September 2015
	October 2016
	October 2017
	December 2017
	October 2018
	October 2019
	October 2020
Next review	October 2021
Owner	Principal Deputy Head

DATE OF REVIEW	AUTHOR	PAGE / PARA	SYNOPSIS OF AMENDMENT
Sep 16	PDH	7	Minor changes to reflect revised detention arrangements
Oct 17	PDH	Throughout	Re-drafting to focus solely on alcohol, with subsequent re-naming
		Page 4	Removal of prescription on Sixth Formers only being offered alcohol with plated meals.
		Page 6	Inclusion of: The cost of care for pupils who require additional attention as a result of intoxication will be added to the parent's school account.
			Rationalisation of sanctions from 4 levels to 3 levels. Level 1 response re-drafted to specify that parents will be informed by the Hm.
Dec 18	PDH	Page 4, para 3	Inclusion of prohibition on low- and no alcohol drinks, and these to be treated in a similar fashion to alcoholic drinks
Oct 18	PDH	Page 6, para 7	Provision to re-charge the cost of cleaning to a parents' account.
Oct 19	PDH	Page 4, Para 3	Inclusion of: "...nor are they permitted to consume alcohol or low- and no-alcohol drinks on school property or during school hours."
		Page 5, Para 5	Inclusion of: "Such rumours are to be reported immediately to the PDH or Head of Prep."
Oct 20	PDH	Page 3, Para 3	Confirmation of the meaning of "school hours" for boarders.
		Page 5 Para 3	Stress laid on importance of SLT being informed "at the <b>very</b> earliest opportunity".
		Page 6 Para 1	Level 1 sanction changed from parents informed by SLT to parents informed by Hm.

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## 1. Introduction

Mount Kelly is aware that alcohol consumption is an accepted practice within many areas of society today and that there are increasing pressures on young people to experiment with alcohol, with the potential attendant risks.

Mount Kelly is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and will take action to safeguard their well-being. It acknowledges the importance of its pastoral role in the welfare of young people and through formal education and the School's general ethos; it will seek to provide the support pupils need to avoid the problems associated with alcohol consumption.

## 2. Personal Social and Health Education Curriculum

Alcohol education will be taught as part of the PSHE programme in a manner appropriate to the pupil's level of understanding:

- to enable pupils to make healthy, informed decisions by increasing knowledge, understanding, challenging attitudes and developing communication and social skills
- to provide accurate and appropriate information
- to help pupils develop an understanding for those experiencing or likely to experience alcohol misuse.

## 3. Alcohol Consumption on School premises

The School is committed to the health and safety of its pupils and members of the community and will take appropriate action to safeguard their well-being with regards to the consumption of alcohol:

- No pupil of any age is allowed to bring alcohol, or low- and no-alcohol drinks, into School, nor are they permitted to consume alcohol or low- and no-alcohol drinks on school property or during school hours. For the purposes of the boarders, school hours are any time during term-time.
- Sixth Form pupils aged 16 and above, may, on occasions organized by the school and attended by staff, consume a small quantity of alcohol. **No drinks of any type containing spirits may be consumed**
- Mount Kelly may offer wine, beer or cider to parents and other adult guests at certain formal events, including plays, dinners, concerts and exhibitions, to which they are invited. Sixth Form pupils may be offered a small quantity of wine, beer or cider at such events. Pupils in younger years are not permitted to drink on these occasions. Soft drinks are always available at such events.

## 4. Alcohol Consumption off the School Premises

No pupil may enter licensed premises without the permission from their Hm, which is only likely to be given to Sixth Formers on condition that they obey the law concerning the purchase of alcohol. These rules apply to pupils on and off the school premises during term time, school outings and expeditions. They also apply on journeys to and from home at the beginning and end of term and at half term.

## **5. Procedures**

If any member of the staff (academic or support) has suspicions of alcohol misuse they must follow the procedures below.

### **Rumour of involvement with alcohol**

- If a member of staff should hear that a pupil or pupils are involved in alcohol-related activities they should inform the pupil's Hm. The Hm will decide what action is most appropriate. It is essential that no precipitous action is taken which might compromise an investigation, however well intentioned.
- Such rumours are to be reported immediately to the PDH or Head of Prep.

### **Dealing with pupils who appear to be under the influence of alcohol**

- The initial priority is the well-being of the pupil. Disciplinary action will come later. If the pupil is totally incapacitated the member of staff should make sure the pupil is safely laid on his/her side so that any vomit is not inhaled, and assistance should be sought.
- Any subsequent action taken will be dependent on the pupil's state of intoxication. Staff are to use their good judgement.
- If the pupil appears to be intoxicated to some degree but is able to walk, he/she should be escorted to his/her House and placed in the care of the House Staff.
- The Principal Deputy Head and/or The Deputy Head (Pastoral) should be informed at the very earliest opportunity and they will confer and agree a course of action.

### **Testing for alcohol**

- If a Hm or any other member of staff considers it likely that a pupil has consumed alcohol in breach of the School rules the pupil should be challenged directly.
- In the event that a pupil denies consuming alcohol, but there is reasonable cause to suspect otherwise (smell, behaviour, coherence and so on) then it might be suggested to the pupil that an alcohol test be conducted. This will be undertaken in the presence of another member of staff.
- The relevant consent to a breath test is that of the pupil rather than the parents, even if the pupil is under 16 years of age, provided that he/she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives verbal consent. Parents will normally be notified only if the breath test has proved positive.
- A record will be kept when a pupil is asked to take a test and its outcome will also be recorded.

## **6. Pastoral Support**

- The School encourages pupils to discuss in confidence any anxieties they may have about the use of alcohol with a member of staff or the school counsellor. Matters brought into counselling by a pupil or his/her parents, in circumstances which are genuine, will be "ring-fenced" from disciplinary sanctions or adverse report, but a pupil who is suspected of unacceptable involvement with alcohol outside this context will face disciplinary action.

## 7. Sanctions for Alcohol

If any pupil contravenes the stated rules, they will be subject to the following sanctions:

Level 1	SLT warning. Health education literature. Parents informed by Hm.
Level 2	SLT warning and formal letter from Principal Deputy Head to Parents. Deputy Head's detention. Meeting with Principal.
Level 3	Principal's formal warning. Suspension likely.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thereafter at the Principal's discretion.</li><li>• Measures will be accelerated for younger pupils.</li></ul>

- Levels will be determined by the gravity of the offence. For example, pupils below the Sixth Form drinking spirits should expect to move to a higher level than a Sixth Form pupil consuming a modest quantity of beer. Similarly, an offence requiring medical attention will assume greater gravity.
- Pupils who, being over the age of 18, procure alcohol for the consumption of pupils under the age of 18 are likely to face very much more serious sanction. This is likely to be reported to the police, and the pupil may be asked to leave the School.
- Hms reserve the right to use a breathalyser at their discretion, in the interests of the pupils' welfare and the good order of the wider community.
- The cost of care for pupils who require additional attention as a result of intoxication, and the cost of cleaning required as a result of intoxication, will be added to the parent's school account.