



MOUNT  
KELLY

Boarding and Day School  
Boys and Girls, Aged 4-18

# Alcohol Policy

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**Owner**         Senior Deputy Head

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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.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the School's Promoting Good Behaviour Policy and the Exclusions Policy.

## 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 wine, beer or cider, within the terms of the school's alcohol license. **No drinks of any type containing spirits may be consumed.**
- The School 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 out of School

Pupils who consume alcohol in town or at another pupil's home, and who return in a clearly inebriated state, will face a sanction commensurate with the degree of inebriation.

Sixth Formers on school trips, tours and visits may consume a modest quantity of alcohol on licensed premises, in accordance with the law, and with the written permission of their parents and the member of staff accompanying the trip.

#### 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 Senior Deputy Head 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 Senior Deputy Head or Head of Prep should be informed at the very earliest opportunity and they 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.
- 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 nurse. 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**

All alcohol offences will be reported to the Senior Deputy Head, the Head Master and to parents.

Evidence of alcohol consumption, except in the permitted circumstances set out above, or excessive alcohol consumption in all circumstances will lead to sanction. For guidance, lower-level alcohol offences would be considered to be possession of beer or being caught in a pub underage. This is likely to lead to a Saturday morning Head Master's Detention.

After a further offence a pupil may be referred to the School Nurse/Doctor for support, or an outside agency (at the parents' expense), where we have reason to believe that they have an issue with alcohol, for example.

Repeated offences are likely to lead to suspension or permanent exclusion.

If an older pupil is found to have provided or purchased alcohol for a younger pupil, it is likely that the older pupil will be suspended or could face permanent exclusion.

Offences involving spirits will normally attract a greater disciplinary reaction. Persuading other pupils to drink spirits is regarded as serious. Should a pupil become ill or incapacitated due to drinking alcohol, they should expect a serious sanction at the level of Head Master's Detention or above. In all cases where a pupil has been drinking, the School reserves the right to telephone parents or guardians and insist that their child is collected from school immediately.

In the case of any incident involving the sale of alcohol to under-age pupils, the School will contact the manager of the establishment involved and the Police may be informed

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.

Consistent with the broader principles of the School's Promoting Good Behaviour Policy, at the discretion of SLT pupils will be asked to attend a meeting with the School Nurse to discuss the dangers of excessive alcohol consumption.

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.