



## **ALCOHOL POLICY - SHERBORNE SHORT COURSES**

Originally written by Deputy Head Pastoral, September 2023;

Adapted by Director of Short Courses: September 2023

Next Review: September 2024

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This policy should be read in conjunction with other School policies:

- Prohibited Drugs and Substance Abuse Policy
- Behaviour Management Policy
- Procedure for Conducting a Search

### **1. General Statement of Policy**

Alcohol plays a part in the life of many adults and issues relating to alcohol feature a great deal in society. In this context it is not surprising that many teenagers wish to consume alcohol and to experiment with it.

The care and welfare of our students is our overriding priority and, whilst it is acknowledged that drinking alcohol in moderation can be regarded as an enjoyable part of adult life, it must always be remembered that alcohol is a depressant drug that can have serious, adverse effects on the adolescent brain. It is, therefore, important that students receive clear and consistent messages about alcohol, its use and abuse.

### **2. Alcohol Education**

The consumption of alcohol in our society is widespread and, therefore, despite students being prohibited from consuming alcohol whilst in attendance on Sherborne International Short Courses, the School recognizes that it is important to seek opportunities to warn students of the dangers of alcohol, as well as sensible and responsible use of alcohol. This is done through assemblies as well as lessons from subject teachers and in general conversations with House and other staff. The risks associated with reduced inhibition, health concerns, implications surrounding consent and sexual relationships and safe driving are included.

### **3. The School's Approach to Alcohol**

**3.1** Consumption of alcohol by students is not allowed under any circumstances.

**3.2** All students are to be in their Boarding House and checked in by their house duty member of staff by the times published in the House routine.

**3.3** Students may be breathalysed at any time if there is concern that they have consumed alcohol.

**3.4** Any breach of this policy is likely to result in sanctions detailed in paragraph 4, below.

#### **4. Sanctions in relation to breaches of the School's Approach to Alcohol**

A range of sanctions, depending upon the seriousness of the offence, apply to students who act in breach of the School's Alcohol Policy.

The possible sanctions include detention, suspension, or expulsion. In all cases, a student's parents will be informed, normally by the Director of Short Courses, of the action being taken.

If an offence involves spirits, or serious intoxication, a student may face a charge for additional staffing costs incurred in their care. In the most serious cases of misconduct relating to alcohol, expulsion from the School may be deemed the most appropriate response.