



# Leighton Park School

## Alcohol Policy

### **Yearly Meeting 1751:**

*As temperance and moderation are virtues proceeding from true religion, and are of great benefit and advantage in many respects, we beseech all to be careful of their conduct and behaviour, abstaining from every appearance of evil; and as an excess in drinking has been too prevalent among many of the inhabitants of these nations, we recommend to all friends a watchful care over themselves, attended with a religious and prudent zeal against a practice so dishonourable and pernicious.*

### **Yearly Meeting approval of a revision of the Book of Discipline, 1994:**

*Many yearly meetings hold very strong testimonies against any use of alcohol. Within Britain Yearly Meeting some friends advocate total abstinence from alcohol, others counsel moderation.*

*Consider whether you should avoid (this product) altogether, discourage (its) use in others, especially young people, and refrain from any share in (its) manufacture or sale. Maintain your own integrity and do not let social pressures influence your decision.*

1. Mindful of its legal and moral responsibilities and its ethos as a Quaker school, Leighton Park does not allow pupils to:
  - possess or consume alcohol on the School premises during term or
  - be in unsupervised possession of alcohol or
  - obtain or supply alcohol to another or
  - be impaired by alcohol while on the School premises or in the care of the School.

Pupils may consume alcohol on residential school trips only when under staff supervision, and with prior written parental consent.

Pupils must not bring the School into disrepute for any reason associated with alcohol, whether or not the pupil is in the care of the School at the time. Action will be taken when the welfare of any member of the School community or the reputation of the School is affected.

2. The school actively promotes awareness of the dangers of alcohol, for example through its personal, social and health education programmes. In addition, it is the school's policy to provide good non-alcoholic alternatives in school on every occasion, and to promote the idea that not drinking alcohol is just as acceptable socially as drinking it.

3. The school is also aware that older pupils at home may consume alcohol from time to time, and that moderate and controlled consumption should not in itself be seen as dangerous.
4. The school recognises that industrial and commercial practice is to discourage the consumption of alcohol during the working day, and follows a similar practice. Members of staff living on the Park may of course consume or serve alcohol within the privacy of their own homes.
5. Alcohol may be served at school events where pupils are present if the Head gives specific permission and appropriate parental and/or staff supervision is in place. In such cases the school will ensure that its approach is compatible with its responsibilities for the general education of its pupils.
6. There may additionally be rare occasions when alcohol is served on the premises, when pupils are not present. Again this may happen only with permission from the Head.
7. During school holidays when lettings take place and all pupils are away, alcohol may be served on school premises by prior arrangement with the Bursar.
8. At the discretion of the Head, the only alcohol which is normally allowed to be served under this policy other than in private houses is beer and wine.
9. **Drinking and possession of alcohol** by pupils in any other situation than as outlined above is a serious breach of the school's Code of Conduct and the pupil should expect the following sanction to be applied:
  - Parents will on all occasions be informed.
  - Gating or a period of suspension should be expected dependent upon individual circumstances of the instance.
  - A second offence will normally result in suspension.
  - Third and subsequent offences could result in permanent exclusion from school.

10. **Searches**

Informed consent: If a search is undertaken consent will be sought from parents or from the pupil if s/he is of sufficient maturity and understanding. The member of staff leading the search will determine whether or not the p is able to provide this consent and may request the additional opinion of a medically qualified member of staff if required. If the pupil refuses consent, s/he will be asked to say why s/he has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from his or her response and general demeanour. If a parent refuses consent, the School may draw inferences from the pupil's general demeanour.

Searches without consent: The Headmaster, and staff authorised by the Headmaster, may search a pupil or a pupil's possessions, without their consent, where they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that a pupil has a prohibited item in their possession.

Usually, and where practical, a staff member would seek permission for such a search.

If staff believe a pupil possesses alcohol it may be appropriate for a member of staff to carry out:

- a. a search of outer clothing; and/or
- b. a search of School property, e.g., pupils' lockers or desks; and/or
- c. a search of personal property (e.g., bag or pencil case within a locker).

Searches will be conducted in such a manner as to minimise embarrassment or distress. Any search of a pupil or their possessions will be carried out in the presence of the pupil and another member of staff.

Where a pupil is searched, the searcher and the second member of staff present will be the same gender as the pupil.

Where alcohol is found, the Headmaster, or staff authorised by the Headmaster, may seize, retain and dispose of it.

#### 11. **Testing for alcohol**

**Breath test:** A pupil suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol may be asked to give a sample of his / her breath by blowing into a breathalyser. The reason for this policy is:

- a. to deter breaches of school discipline;
- b. to encourage pupils to be truthful when under suspicion;
- c. to absolve those who have been wrongly suspected.

Reason to suspect alcohol consumption may arise as a result of information or a complaint received or because of a pupil's behaviour or demeanour.

**Method of use:** Only members of staff who have received training will be authorised to administer the breathalyser. In general, they will be members of the Senior Management Team.

**Informed consent:** 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 he / she is of sufficient maturity and understanding and gives his / her informed consent in writing. Parents will normally be notified only if the breath test has proved positive.

**Refusal:** If a pupil refuses to provide a sample of breath:

- a. he / she will be asked to say why he / she has refused. The School will be entitled to draw inferences from his / her response and general demeanour;
- b. the pupil may be asked to supply, under medical supervision, a urine sample for analysis in accordance with the drug testing procedures. Again, the School will be entitled to draw inferences from his / her refusal.

**Record:** A written record will be kept when a pupil is asked to take a test and its outcome will be recorded.

12. **Subsequent action**

The School will treat a positive test, although not infallible, as evidence that the pupil has consumed alcohol. The following procedure will apply:

- a. the pupil will be asked to give his / her explanation;
- b. if the pupil has refused a test or denies alcohol consumption after a positive test and refuses to give a urine sample, his / her parents will be informed and a meeting will be arranged with the Head or, in his absence, the Deputy Head. The pupil may be accompanied by his / her parents or by a member of the School staff chosen by him / her to assist him / her;
- c. all relevant evidence, including a positive test result, will be put to the pupil and he / she will be invited to respond;
- d. his / her response will be heard and considered and further enquiries will be made if necessary;
- e. the Head will make a finding of fact based on the evidence and supported by reasons

If the Head's decision after considering all the material evidence is that the pupil has consumed alcohol, the Head will outline the range of sanctions he / she is considering (as set out above) and will then, or at a later meeting if requested, hear mitigating circumstances and consider the pupil's academic and disciplinary record and the extent to which he / she has co-operated, before deciding on the sanction.

13. At all times, the welfare and safety of Leighton Park pupils remain of paramount importance. The school aims to guide pupils, through both policy and practice, to a reasonable understanding of the issues surrounding the controlled consumption of alcohol, and stresses the dangers inherent in its abuse.

14. **Monitoring**

This policy will be reviewed:

- f. following any serious incident involving pupils and alcohol
- g. following the issue of any new guidance from the Department for Education
- h. in any event, every three years.

**September 2011**