

## Definitions

Alcohol is a legal drug which is classified as a sedative/depressant, reducing the ability to make rational decisions and to coordinate limbs or speech. Alcohol can be an addictive substance.

In the longer term, the abuse of alcohol can lead directly or indirectly to problems of ill-health.

In the shorter term, the abuse of alcohol through excessive consumption and consequent intoxication (currently termed “binge drinking”) can lead to increased risks to the health and safety of those drinking alcohol and also to people around them. Specific risks of death or injury to be noted are: alcohol poisoning, choking on vomit, intoxication leading to accidents and injury.

## Our Policy

We live in a society where the reckless consumption of alcohol is increasingly common, particularly among young people. While the Concord College Summer School’s existing drugs policy already broadly covers the abuse of alcohol, we feel that the widespread availability of intoxicating beverages and ambiguous social attitudes to them require a separate and specific document.

The Concord College Summer School recognises its responsibility to treat alcohol use and its misuse/abuse as an educational issue and we recognise our duty to liaise with outside agencies in order to combat the problem. Thus the Concord College Summer School will seek to work in partnership with parents, health services, the police and other organisations as appropriate. The Concord College Summer School may also choose to inform trading standards and the police concerning the inappropriate sale or supply of alcohol to pupils.

## Our Rules concerning Alcohol:

1. The possession, supply or consumption of alcohol by students within school boundaries is forbidden by Concord College Summer School rules.
2. No pupil under 16 should be served alcohol on any occasion.
3. No student should consume excessive quantities of alcohol to the extent that they pose a danger to the health, safety and wellbeing of themselves or other members of the community.
4. Alcoholic drinks must not be kept or consumed by students in Concord. A student on campus clearly under alcoholic influence may be asked to leave the Concord College Summer School.
5. Any student caught in possession of spirits or supplying alcohol to younger students may be asked to leave the Concord College Summer School.

## Procedures to be followed if a student is suspected of having consumed a quantity of alcohol giving cause for concern:

Safety & First Aid: The utmost priority should be given to safety and to meeting any medical emergencies arising from alcohol misuse or abuse with first aid and summoning appropriate help.

A rapid assessment needs to be made of whether a pupil is showing signs of intoxication and whether there is a need for a lengthy period of supervision to avoid the dangers presented by excessive consumption of alcohol. Supervision of an intoxicated student on campus could involve them being moved to the medical room and having constant supervision by Night Security or other staff.

The advice of the Concord College Summer School Nurse and/or the Course Director (or Child Safeguarding Manager) ought to be sought and serious consideration given to whether an ambulance should be summoned. Each case needs to be treated on an individual basis. The following factors might need to be borne in mind in determining whether an ambulance needs to be summoned:

Is a Concord College Summer School Nurse available to help in determining whether calling an ambulance is the appropriate course of action? If a student is vomiting due to alcohol consumption, then the Concord College Summer School Nurse should be called out since it is an emergency.

How coherent/conscious is the intoxicated student? Is their condition stable, or is it worsening over time?

Is the student vomiting? If not, is there an increased risk of alcohol poisoning since the alcohol is still being absorbed into their bloodstream?

If the student is vomiting, the risk of the student choking on his/her vomit should be kept in mind. Supervision of the student by staff is needed.

Might the age, build, gender or ethnicity of the student give any further cause for concern about their ability to cope with the alcohol that has been consumed?

Is it possible to determine how much alcohol has been consumed - either by questioning the student directly, or by questioning their friends?

Reporting Incidents: Given the potential serious risks to the Health & Safety of both individuals and the wider community of the Concord College Summer School, any significant suspicion of alcohol abuse should be communicated to the Course Director, or another member of the Senior Management team in his/her absence such as the Child Safeguarding Manager or Director of Summer Courses, as soon as possible.

Investigation of Incidents: The Course Director, or his deputy, will consider each situation individually and determine if further action such as a search, interview, or breath test is required.

### **Procedures for conducting searches and drug tests**

When a person is suspected of concealing alcohol, the location of the search must be considered and the consent of the individual concerned should be sought. A second adult witness should be present during any search.

Searches: See the separate document entitled “Searches of Students & Their Property” for detailed guidance about searches with consent, searches without consent and the confiscation/seizure of property. Staff might want to consult the latest guidance “Drug Advice for Schools” by DfE & ACPO, January 2012 & also the DfE’s publication, “Screening, Searching & Confiscation”. Copies of these documents are stored in the Staff Handbook and can be consulted for further detailed guidance.

Breath Testing: In view of the provisions of this policy and the clear requirement that students observe and keep Concord College Summer School rules, the Course Director (or Child Safeguarding Manager) may require a student to submit to a breath test (or similar test) which is designed to assess alcohol consumption. In terms of issues relating to consent and competency, the following guidance contained in the Concord College Summer School’s Drugs Policy should be borne in mind:

“Refusing to consent to a drug test:

If a student refuses to consent to a drug test, that student is likely to be excluded from the Concord College Summer School until such time as a test is undertaken. Refusal to undertake a drug test may in itself result in serious disciplinary action being taken which could include or expulsion from the Concord College Summer School.

Competency issues with students consenting to a drug test:

If a student consents to a drug test, then it should also be considered if parental consent is also required. The Concord College Summer School will deal with this question in the same way that it would deal with the question of general consent for medical treatment. Given that this is the case, parental consent is only required if the pupil is not competent to consent on their own behalf (i.e. if he or she does not sufficiently understand and appreciate what he or she is being asked to consent to and the potential consequences - sometimes referred to as “Gillick” competence.) Children are generally presumed competent to give consent from the age of 16 onwards; under 16, the Concord College Summer School must assess whether the child has sufficient understanding to give valid and informed consent. In cases where the student is not assessed by the Concord College Summer School as competent to give consent, then the consent of a parent/ guardian should be sought prior to such testing.

Notification of the results of a drug test:

Students and parents concerned will be notified of the result of any drug test.”

**Possible outcomes:**

Sanctions:

It should be noted that in the Student Rules it states clearly that, **“Alcoholic drinks must not be kept or consumed by students in the Concord College Summer School.”**

Despite this being a serious disciplinary issue, the Concord College Summer School will aim to deal with all individuals involved in incidents in a sensitive and supportive manner.

In deciding on a suitable sanction, account will be taken of: the strength and quantity of alcohol involved; the age of the student; the level of intoxication of the student; the degree of involvement of or by other students; the risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of all those involved; whether any laws have been broken.

The consumption of drinks containing higher percentages of alcohol, or “spirits”, will generally lead to more serious punishments being considered since greater levels of intoxication can be reached more quickly and the risk to personal health will be greater.

A student on campus clearly under alcoholic influence may be asked to leave the Concord College Summer School.

Parents will be informed in writing of any breaches of the Concord College Summer School rules concerning alcohol.

### **Conclusion**

This document outlines the Concord College Summer School’s Policy and Procedures for dealing with alcohol incidents and is intended to provide staff, students and parents with a clear understanding of the Concord College Summer School’s position. It is intended to underline the commitment of the Concord College Summer School to prevent the potential harm of alcohol abuse to individuals and also to the whole community.

### **Review**

This policy/procedure will be reviewed annually or earlier in the event of any incidents or changes to local or national guidelines.