



Holmer Green Senior School

Alcohol Policy
Due Care of Students

February 2016

Holmer Green Senior School

Alcohol Policy Due Care of Students

In law, a school trip or visit covers any occasion when students leave school premises under the care of a member of staff. Teachers have a **duty to care** for the students in their charge and must adopt a responsible attitude to their health, safety and welfare; teachers must act as a reasonable, prudent parent would. Because teachers are trained, professional people, courts have tended to expect them to exercise a higher standard of care than members of the general public. **A charge of negligence may arise from the lack of due care.** In March 2005, for example, a teacher leading a trip, during which a boy drowned, pleaded guilty to manslaughter and was jailed for a year.

Supervision is always 24 hours and it is essential that everyone involved in the visit understands the supervision arrangements and expectations.

Close supervision occurs when the group remain within sight and contact of the supervisor;

Remote supervision occurs when, as part of planned activities, a group works away from the supervisor but is subject to stated controls (eg. during certain Duke of Edinburgh's Award expeditions). The supervisor is present though not necessarily near or in sight, but his or her whereabouts are known;

Down time (or recreational time) – for example during the evenings – may involve close or remote supervision, but **should not be unsupervised** – the supervisors continue to be in charge;

There must always be at least one member of staff on duty, able to take responsibility in the event of an **emergency**, including driving a vehicle to hospital if necessary. This person should not drink alcohol whilst on duty. Depending on staff-student numbers and the gender balance of the group, it may be necessary to have two or more staff on duty at any time.

The school encourages those who consume alcohol to do so sensibly and responsibly. It is recognised that alcohol may be available at some school-related events, whether held on the school site or not. However, employees must be fit for work when conducting duties and are always expected to maintain and be responsible for their own standards of behaviour.

Because of the impact on health and safety and the impression that will be conveyed to others, the school has certain expectations about the consumption of alcohol in the workplace including off site activities. Employees are expected not to undertake their work duties while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In this context, employees are expected to exercise their judgement about the appropriateness of consuming alcohol in a work context.

Approved by the Governing Body at their meeting held on 2.2.16.
To be reviewed: Feb 2019