Alcohol

Do Schools need to comply?

Schools should have clearly defined policies and procedures relating to student consumption of alcohol during school hours and/or during school camps or excursions.

Conditions of compliance:

In the case of incidents involving student alcohol consumption, initial actions and responses should focus on the safety and welfare of those directly and indirectly involved. Sanctions or consequences may then follow according to the school’s code of conduct.

Staff should be made aware of the school’s policies and procedures in relation to student alcohol consumption. Where school personnel become aware that alcohol consumption by students is occurring or is likely to take place, there is a clear ‘duty of care’ to pass on this information via the defined school channels.

If you have to comply, what do you have to do?

The action to be taken when students are known to have been consuming alcohol during school hours, or to have brought alcohol onto school premises, is to be determined by the principal in accordance with the school’s student code of conduct. However, such incidents should be regarded as serious and the use of suspension seen as an appropriate action.

In the case of underage students if the source of supply can be identified, the police should be notified where appropriate.

The consumption of alcohol at school camps or excursions by students (whether under or over the age of eighteen) is prohibited in DECD schools and schools are advised to have their own clear policies in place about this. Parents/guardians and students should be informed of this before departure and warned that offenders will be severely disciplined and, where appropriate, returned immediately to school or home.

Schools should refer to Intervention Matters - A policy statement and procedural framework for the Management of suspected drug-related incidents in schools published by DECD (see link below). This publication will provide useful assistance and advice for schools.

What are the consequences if you don’t comply?

You may be in breach of your duty of care responsibilities.

Useful links:

DECD – Drug incidents and schools: Policy and procedures