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| Author: | MG&E |

Alcohol – use in schools and on school-related activities

Purpose

This policy provides guidance to schools in the use of alcohol in schools and on school-related activities such as camps or excursions.

Policy

The consumption of alcohol by school staff and parents/volunteers who are acting in an official capacity as student supervisors is not permitted during school hours, while students are present on site, or while staff/parents and students are engaged in off-campus, school-related activities. Under no circumstances are students, even those of legal drinking age, permitted to consume alcohol at school or at school-related activities.

Rationale

Students today are exposed to numerous advertisements and messages which may lead them to believe that alcohol consumption is an integral part of being an adult.

School staffs have a duty of care as well as a moral obligation to model responsible behaviour to their students both at school and while engaged in off campus school related activities. As alcohol consumption may impair staff in the exercise of their duty of care, and may reinforce the stereotype that alcohol is integral to adult interaction, this policy will apply to all diocesan schools and colleges.

Legal requirements, the good management of schools, and the duty of care for school communities requires a complete ban on the consumption of alcohol by all students at school and at school-related activities

Consequences

1. It is assumed that while on camps and excursions etc, staff are on duty 24 hours a day and are therefore subject to this policy for the duration of the activity.
2. Social gatherings and official fundraisers involving staff and parents held outside school hours are not affected by this policy.
3. Community liquor permits are not required for one-off school events such as fetes and trivia nights providing all proceeds benefit the community, liquor is sold for a period of eight hours or less between 7am and midnight, and the sale of liquor is ancillary to the event. Please refer to the Office of Liquor and

Gaming Regulation website www.olgr.qld.gov.au to access the exemption self-assessment to confirm this.

4. Nevertheless the sale of alcohol should conform with the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation guidelines for the Responsible Service of Alcohol including:
 - liquor must be sold by an adult, in an open container and for consumption at the event;
 - the sale of liquor must not create an unsafe environment at the event;
 - liquor must not be sold or supplied in a way that encourages rapid or excessive consumption; and
 - liquor must not be sold or supplied to minors or patrons who are unduly intoxicated or disorderly.
 - Raffle tickets cannot be sold to an adult who is unduly intoxicated and the prize cannot be given to an adult who is unduly intoxicated
5. No student, including those of legal drinking age (18+), will be permitted to drink alcohol at school or school-related activities, or school social gatherings or fundraisers.
6. It is recognised that for some staff in boarding facilities, the school is also their home. In such cases, discretion needs to be exercised and alcohol consumption after normal working hours restricted to areas which are segregated from students. Staff should not consume or be affected by alcohol at times they are on duty or on call.
7. Schools should avoid excessive storage of alcohol on school premises. Where possible alcohol should be stored securely well out of view.
8. All staff and parents/volunteers will be aware of this policy while engaged in school or school-related activities.

Reflection

Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation www.olgr.qld.gov.au

See also (Related Policies and Guidelines)

Guidelines: Student behaviour – Suspension and Exclusion

Codes of Conduct – Staff and Parents