

St Chad's College Alcohol Policy

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the College's position on the provision of alcohol, alcohol consumption, potentially unsafe drinking behaviours, and related issues amongst members of the College community.

2. Policy Statement

The College recognises that moderate consumption of alcohol is for many individuals an enjoyable part of socialising. The College has no wish to discourage sensible and responsible drinking. However, the College is concerned to make all members aware of the potentially harmful effects of excessive drinking, particularly as they relate to health, behaviour, safety, professionalism and / or academic performance; and to establish guidelines for the safe enjoyment of alcohol. The College also considers it important to encourage a social life that respects those who choose not to drink alcohol for reasons of religion, culture, health, or other personal circumstances. Overall the College aims to provide a supportive environment which encourages a culture of choice, self-respect, self-care, and a respect and care for others.

3. Objectives

The College is committed to achieving the following objectives:

- 3.1 to promote a clear and consistent message which advocates responsible alcohol use at St Chad's College sanctioned events and activities, and more generally;
- 3.2 to improve awareness of the impact of alcohol and the potential risks associated with excessive drinking;
- 3.3 to promote personal responsibility for alcohol consumption and care and support in relation to that of others;
- 3.4 to provide a safe environment for all St Chad's College sanctioned events and activities that mitigates the potential risks and reduces the potential vulnerabilities related to the consumption of alcohol;
- 3.5 to provide an atmosphere free from pressure to drink for those who choose not to drink alcohol;
- 3.6 to offer a balanced social programme with choice and alternatives to drinking alcohol;
- 3.7 to offer appropriate help and support to those who experience problems related to their consumption of alcohol;
- 3.8 to provide appropriate support for those affected by the alcohol-related behaviour and problems of others;
- 3.9 to ensure that College strategies and procedures in this area are complementary to those of appropriate external agencies such as Durham University, Government, Students' Union, Durham City Council, Best Bar None, and community stakeholders;
- 3.10 to have clear, appropriate and integrated procedures to deal with problems arising from excessive drinking which are both supportive and disciplinary as appropriate;
- 3.11 to challenge any potentially dangerous behaviours in relation to alcohol consumption where these are identified as posing a risk to members or to the community, for example excessive pre-drinking, initiation ceremonies for teams or clubs, or drinking games;
- 3.12 to identify, monitor and reduce alcohol-related incidents in so far as they affect our Members or community.

4. Implementation

The implementation of this policy is overseen by the College Officers and the Executive Committees of the Junior, Middle, and Senior Common Rooms. The objectives (*above*) will be implemented through:

- 4.1 the dissemination of the College's Alcohol Policy to all members of the College community;
- 4.2 clear statements on alcohol which can be used in all College publications, including materials for recruitment, induction, and for progressing students;
- 4.3 the organisation of educational information, campaigns and events to raise awareness of alcohol together with the potential behavioural and health risks associated with excessive consumption, and to promote individual and collective responsibility for alcohol consumption; these should be delivered throughout the year and directed at all members;
- 4.4 the promotion of St Chad's College sanctioned events which are inclusive; all events will provide cheaply priced or free non-alcoholic refreshments, or will not involve any alcohol;
- 4.5 College policy not to sanction any events or activities which encourage inappropriate and excessive consumption of alcohol such as drinking games, and a zero tolerance approach towards initiation ceremonies;
- 4.6 the consideration of the appropriateness and inclusiveness of sponsorship from outlets that retail alcohol;
- 4.7 the provision of appropriate and accessible advice and signposting for all students who experience problems related to their own alcohol consumption or that of others; through the College Student Support Office, the Counselling Service, or the Students' Union Advice and Help Service, and to appropriate specialist external agencies, for example;
- 4.8 ensuring that individuals involved in the support of members (College Officers, Tutors, members of the Common Room Executive Committees) are provided with the training and / or information to address alcohol-related problems, and to appropriately signpost members to sources of support;
- 4.9 liaison with appropriate external agencies and community stakeholders (e.g. Durham University, Health Services, Local Authority, Police, specialist agencies, Residents' Associations) as necessary and appropriate;
- 4.10 where appropriate, the effective use of the disciplinary procedures in response to allegations of alcohol-related misconduct;
- 4.11 the assessment of potential risks associated with alcohol consumption at all St Chad's College sanctioned events and activities for members, and the implementation of appropriate mitigation to address the potential vulnerabilities created by drinking alcohol;
- 4.12 the consumption of alcohol during normal working hours only occurring on special occasions, such as presentations, or seasonal gatherings, and with the prior permission of a College Officer; on such occasions the provision of alcohol should be moderate and suitable non-alcoholic alternatives made available;
- 4.13 the monitoring and follow-up of alcohol-related incidents at all St Chad's sanctioned events;
- 4.14 the regular review of the policy and associated procedures, including input from student representatives.

5. Oversight

The College Officers have oversight of and responsibility for the Policy on Alcohol Awareness and Use.

6. Support

The College is a caring community committed to promoting the wellbeing of its members and supporting those who wish to address problems. We provide appropriate help and advice for members who wish to address issues arising from their own alcohol use, and also provide appropriate help and advice for those adversely affected by the alcohol-related behaviour and problems of others.

Excessive drinking can be the first outward sign that an individual needs help. Students can seek advice from the College Officers, from their College Tutor, from the Counselling Service, or from the Students' Union Advice and Help Service, and will be signposted and assisted to access appropriate external specialist agencies.

Staff and members of the SCR may also seek advice from the College if they are worried about excessive drinking. Staff should contact their Line Manager or a College Officer in the first instance, and will be signposted and assisted to access appropriate internal and external specialist agencies. Members of the SCR should contact a College Officer, and will be supported as above.

As well as offering appointments, the Counselling Service also provides electronic sources of support available through the service website: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/counselling.service/>.

7. Education

The College and its Common Rooms provide regular educational opportunities and publicity to raise awareness of the health and other risks associated with the misuse of alcohol and to promote responsible alcohol consumption to all members.

8. Ticketed Events and Activities

Tickets sold for all St Chad's sanctioned events and activities, whether taking place within or outside the College, will always provide a ticket option which does not include any alcohol at all, and if alcohol is included in a ticket price then the amount shall not exceed three units (for example, a reception drink or drinks). Members and guests may have the option to purchase limited additional alcoholic drinks at the event / activity (from a cash bar; a token bar; or via a pre-ordering service) at the discretion of the College Officers. The College Officers will consult members and stakeholders (for example, the JCR and / or MCR Executive Committees) where decisions are to be made about the provision of alcohol at specific College or College-sanctioned events.

9. College Bars

The College bar is not merely an outlet for the sale of alcohol; rather, it provides inclusive social space for College communities and is the focus of a wide range of events and activities that may or may not include alcohol. The College bar is a safe and supportive environment.

The College bar conforms to standard operating procedures, as applicable to all University college bars.

The College bar has Designated Premises Supervisor and at least two College staff are license holders and are responsible for the operation of the bars. College staff and key student members complete the BIIAB Level 2 Award for Personal Licence Holders along with other relevant training.

A minimum pricing policy is in operation and is reviewed annually.

No promotions which encourage the purchase of alcohol through giveaways or reduced prices are permitted.

The College bar is accredited by the Best Bar None Scheme which includes annual Inspections, and is also a member of the Durham City Pub Watch.

Community Liaison

St Chad's College is committed to working in partnership with community stakeholders

(Durham University, Emergency Services, Local Authority, Residents' Associations etc.) and will liaise to share views on best practice regarding the problems associated with alcohol consumption and to take action where this is identified as being necessary.

11. College Regulations

The College recognises that, regrettably, excessive consumption of alcohol is a common factor when dealing with student misconduct. Consequently, the College Regulations [200702-College-Handbook.pdf \(stchads.ac.uk\)](https://stchads.ac.uk/200702-College-Handbook.pdf) apply in respect of any alleged misconduct, including misconduct which is a consequence of alcohol use. Being under the influence of alcohol is not an excuse for misconduct, offensive, abusive or illegal behaviour, and may be regarded as an aggravating feature. The application of disciplinary procedures always includes the provision of appropriate support.

12. College staff, College Tutors, and Members of the SCR

We expect and encourage all staff, Tutors, and members of the Senior Common Room to promote and model safe and responsible alcohol consumption, and to refrain from excessive alcohol consumption at College and College-sanctioned events. It is the responsibility of all College staff and Tutors to assist those students who wish to access support for problems arising from alcohol use, signposting them to the appropriate support resources and specialist student services. The College will provide / facilitate access to appropriate training and sources of advice.

13. Monitoring and review

This policy and the achievement of its objectives will be reviewed annually by the College Officers and the Executive Committees of the Junior, Middle, and Senior Common Rooms. This review will include receipt of data collected to monitor incidents related to the consumption of alcohol and the use of support services provided to address alcohol-related issues.