



Title:	Parties and Alcohol Policy
Summary:	Policy on Parties and the Consumption of Alcohol
Intended Audience:	Parents, Students and Staff
Author:	Headmaster
Updated:	201603
BOSTES Reference:	Registered and Accredited Individual Non-government Schools (NSW) Manual Reference Number 3.6.2 and 3.11.5
Distribution:	Web / Internal

Parties and Alcohol

POLICY

Parties of any kind should be **small, modest and restrained**. We want to discourage rather than encourage teenage drinking, and we want to explode the myth that alcohol is a necessary ingredient of enjoyment or a necessary badge of adulthood. We believe we have a responsibility to set standards which, while they might not always be understood or welcomed by our children now, are nonetheless in their and in society's best interests and will be appreciated in time.

In our view:

Small means limited number of people, say a maximum of around thirty.

Modest means being simple in concept, not trying to outdo others

Restrained means tasteful, avoiding excesses and in keeping with our standards and traditions.

We believe that where alcohol is allowed at teenage parties its use should always be strictly controlled, its consumption should be moderate, alternatives should be offered and parental permission must be sought and received.

It could be argued that while the School can dictate terms for its own functions it has no business dictating policies or practices to parents at home. I hope our policy is not seen as a dictation but as a plea for cooperation. I hope that one reason why parents have chosen at great cost to send their children to this school is the values and attitudes it stands for. We need to support each other if these values are to have any impact on our children.

I would like to be quite explicit on this particular issue and the very serious problem of teenage drinking.

We believe that parents who organise or allow large parties with alcohol for minors are:

1. Indirectly encouraging the current attitudes so prevalent in our society and, therefore, indirectly contributing to the problem.
2. Knowingly acting against the wishes and requests of this school community - Headmaster, the School Board, senior staff and parent organisation.
3. Putting enormous pressure on other families who may not share such liberal views.
4. Possibly breaking the law.

All parents must be very clear about the statement below contained in the *Liquor Act 2007 (NSW)*. It is an offence to sell or supply liquor to a person under the age of eighteen years.

Also, police powers have been broadened so as to prevent under age drinking on licensed premises or in public areas and/or private areas such as a person's home. Accordingly, an adult could be prosecuted under this section for supplying alcohol to a minor in a private home where the adult has not received consent to do so by the minor's parent or guardian.

Our legal advice to staff is that this consent must be specifically sought and granted if we wish to be sure of avoiding charges or litigation.

I hope that all TAS parents will support the School in keeping any parties small, modest and decorous.