

Kildare Youth Theatre: ALCOHOL POLICY

Kildare Youth Theatre recognises that the misuse of alcohol causes distress, damage and addiction in individuals and in families. We understand that the drinks industry markets alcohol consumption relentlessly, and in particular to the new and younger drinkers in our community.

We know that binge drinking and reckless drinking are in part due to the easy availability of alcohol in our town.

It is for this, and other reasons, that we have an Alcohol Policy.

1. We prohibit drinking alcohol anywhere, at any time, on our premises even if the people are over 18.
 2. No-one may enter the centre if they have been drinking.
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There are many reasons why we prohibit drinking, and why we insist that no-one comes to our centre having been drinking. They include:

1. It is illegal to facilitate minors (under 18) in drinking. Under no circumstances can under 18s ever drink in our space.
2. When drunk, a person's behaviour changes. Levels of awareness of danger slip and inhibitions are lowered. Sober judgement is usually not used. So if a situation arose when people were drinking, there would be no capable, sober person there to react sensibly and perhaps safely (eg someone had an asthma attack).
3. Incidents of sexual activity could happen, which the next day might be viewed differently. It's possible someone might come to think that they engaged in something they didn't actually want to, but they were drunk at the time. Rows can escalate and full scale fights break out. Damage can occur, both to people and property.
4. Negligence often results after drinking: heaters are left on, fire hazards overlooked, doors and windows left open, etc.
5. Some young people have stress associated with members of their family drinking. When they come to KYT and encounter someone who has been drinking they may be made uncomfortable by association with their home situation. Even if the drinker is moderate, affable or quiet, the association with stressful home may still be there for the young person meeting the drinker.
5. People who are no longer involved in KYT, or people who never were involved, have less to lose when simply using the centre to socialise in this way. Therefore, they may have a lower sense of duty, or care, or responsibility. To them, for

example, getting sick on the stairs is embarrassing perhaps, but since they are not there much, they don't have to deal with the consequences of that.

6. People may not come to our premises for any reason once they have consumed alcohol. Anyone so arriving will be sent home (and if under 18 their parents informed).

7. Anyone drinking alcohol on our premises will be removed, and suspended (if a member), demoted (if a leader) and all privileges removed. Penalties may extend to being barred from the premises and from partaking in all Crooked House/KYT projects.

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