



The Concerned Communities Coalition

Together keeping youth alcohol and drug free

The latest scientific data indicates that the age-old understanding that teenage drinking is dangerous has been shown to be correct for a number of reasons – both in the short and long term.

Our children are at risk as never before as they are targeted in the marketing of a growing variety of alcoholic products and licensed clubs and venues in an increasingly confused society around this issue. School research indicates that the age at which young people are starting to drink alcohol regularly is decreasing, while the amounts of alcohol being drunk is increasing.

In order to help protect our children we believe that it is important that a basic set of minimum standards with respect to alcohol are upheld by us all.

CORE PRINCIPLES

- **Partnership** - schools, parents, and learners are a key partnership in the learning process. When these key elements work in harmony, the learner will flourish.
- **Concern** - teenage alcohol abuse, and the sub-cultural influences associated with it are not in the long term interests of the learner.
- **Messages** - the message that society presents to teenagers is a confused mix between marketing messages, inconsistent parental and school messages, and a general ceding of responsibility to societal norms.
- **Observance of the law** – we are mindful of and observe the law of the land in relation to providing alcohol to those in our care, and to other children;
- **Responsibility** – we take responsibility through our actions and example for the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of minors under our care; in so doing, we also promote responsible behaviour among children in our care;
- **Accountability** – we will be accountable to society, other parents and our children when we create circumstances where underage drinking and undesirable behaviour may occur;
- **Communication** – we seek to maintain open channels of communication between ourselves and other parents, and between ourselves and those in our care;
- **Honesty and integrity** – we seek to inculcate a mindset of honesty and integrity amongst those in our care, while demonstrating honesty and

Associate Schools

St David's Marist Inanda, Roedeon School, St Mary's School, Thomas More College, Willow Ridge Private School, Alberton High School, St Alban's College, Greenside High School, Laerskool Jan Celliers, Midstream College, Leeuwenhof Akademie, Beualieu College, Trinityhouse School, St Benedicts College, St John's College, Sagewood School, Dainfern College, St Mary's DSG Pretoria, Alma Mater Akademie, Sekolo sa Borokgo, Aurora Private School, Dominican Convent School, St Stithians Boys College, St Stithians Girls College, Brescia House School, Christ-Church Preparatory School, Christ-Church College, King Edward VII School, Veritas College, Woodlands International College, Holy Rosary School, King David High School, Kingsmead College, St Andrew's School for Girls, Hilton College, Ridgeway College, St Peter's Preparatory School for Girls, Assumption Convent, Pecanwood College, Waverly Girls' High School, Potchefstroom High School for Boys, Sandringham High School, Summit College, Grey High School, St Benedict's Preparatory School, St Dominic's College Welkom, St Martin's School, CBC St Patrick's, St Peter's College, Parktown Boys' High School, Alberton High School,



BY SIGNING THIS CHARTER AS A PARENT I UNDERTAKE TO USE MY BEST ENDEAVOURS TO ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING **MINIMUM STANDARDS** AROUND ALCOHOL:

- ensure that parties for minors held at our homes are alcohol free;
- monitor the behaviour of our own children and their friends and take action to prevent the abuse of alcohol;
- speak openly about underage or irresponsible drinking and bad behaviour and contact parents of children who engage in underage or irresponsible drinking and who behave badly; and
- not condone the purchase of alcohol by adults for resale or distribution to minors.

Furthermore, we will seek to:

- play an active role in educating our children about the harmful effects of alcohol;
- educate ourselves on the subject of and problems with underage and excessive drinking;
- monitor our children’s whereabouts, and don’t assume that plans, venues and lift arrangements will not change;
- set, discuss and maintain rules and boundaries for our children;
- be alert to and deal with the phenomenon of binge drinking;
- seek professional assistance if there are concerns about physical and/or emotional dependence on alcohol;
- discuss the subject of underage or excessive drinking with other parents, sharing information about patterns of behaviour, concerns, signs or symptoms of problems and worrying situations;
- reach agreements with other parents about consistent and helpful ways of dealing with underage drinking;
- seek to provide and encourage opportunities for healthy and enjoyable social interaction between boys and girls in an alcohol-free environment;
- avoid hosting open parties and take caution when allowing our children to attend open parties;
- maintain sufficient parental visibility and control at parties, enlisting the support of other parents;
- establish a guest list when hosting parties and ensure there is a way of managing attendance according to the guest list;
- exercise care to ensure our children are not given lifts by those under the influence of alcohol and where applicable, that they do not drive when they have been drinking;
- avoid glamorising alcohol;
- set a good personal example for our children.

SIGNED: _____

CHILD’S NAME _____

CONTACT NUMBER FOR PARENT DIRECTORY : _____

DATE _____