

## SECTION 4

# ALCOHOL AND THE LAW

As pupils get older, it is important that they understand the possible long term consequences of breaking the law.

In this section, the worksheets lay out laws that apply to alcohol in as simple a way as possible.

The lesson plans are based on different scenarios that avoid a preachy style. Key lessons include:

- o You and the law
- o Drinking and driving
- o Drinking and driving don't mix.

There are some good film clips via [alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/the-law/](http://alcoholeducationtrust.org/teacher-area/the-law/) and an [interactive factsheet](http://talkaboutalcohol.com) in our Online Learning Zone [talkaboutalcohol.com](http://talkaboutalcohol.com)

We have also included a hand out, 'What you need to know about drinking and driving' in Section 6 - [Resources suitable for older students \(16+\)](#).

**Alcohol and the Law**

**under 18**  
You can not buy or be served alcohol if you are under 18 in a licensed premises

**NO ID NO SALE!**  
If you are over 18, you will need to prove it!

The police can take away alcohol from under 18s in a public place

Driving when above the drink-drive limit costs lives and leads to prison, fines and losing your licence

It's against the law to sell alcohol to someone who is drunk or to buy alcohol for someone who is drunk

It's against the law for over 18s to buy alcohol for under 18s (buying by proxy)

**TALK ABOUT ALCOHOL**

[Alcohol And The Law worksheet \(simple\)](#)

**ALCOHOL AND THE LAW**

BUYING ALCOHOL FOR YOURSELF	NO ID NO SALE
BUYING ALCOHOL FOR SOMEONE ELSE	DRINKING AND DRIVING
ALCOHOL RESTRICTION ZONES	CONSUMING ALCOHOL IN PUBS AND RESTAURANTS
UNDERAGE DRINKING IN PUBLIC PLACES	

[Alcohol And The Law activity on talkaboutalcohol.com](#)

# Alcohol and the Law



You can not buy or be served alcohol if you are under 18 in a licensed premises



If you are over 18, you will need to prove it!



The police can take away alcohol from under 18s in a public place



Driving when above the drink-drive limit costs lives and leads to prison, fines and losing your licence



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# Alcohol and the law



## Buying alcohol for yourself

It is illegal for licensed premises to sell alcohol to someone under 18. It is illegal to sell alcohol to a person who is drunk.

## No ID no sale

Even if you are over 18 and you don't have ID, shopkeepers and licensed premises can refuse to serve you if you look younger.

## Buying alcohol for someone else

Police have the power to charge someone over 18 knowingly buying alcohol for someone under 18 (buying by proxy).

It is illegal to obtain alcohol for a person who is drunk.

## Alcohol restriction zones

It is an arrestable offence to fail to comply with a police officer's request not to drink alcohol in a designated Alcohol Restricted Area. The police also have the power to take away and dispose of any alcohol and containers in the persons possession.

## Underage drinking in public places

Police have powers to confiscate alcohol from under 18s drinking in public spaces (e.g. on the street or in parks).

## Consuming alcohol in licensed premises

If you are under 18, it is against the law to consume alcohol in a licensed premise, with the exception of 16 and 17 year-olds, who are allowed to drink beer, wine or cider during a meal with adults (but they may not buy the alcohol themselves).

## Drinking and driving

It's against the law for an adult to drive with more than 80mg of alcohol per 100ml of their blood. If they break the law, they could face a fine of £5,000, six months in prison and having their licence taken away for at least a year. Causing death through drink-driving can result in a maximum prison sentence of 14 years and a two-year driving ban.



## TEACHER NOTES

**You and the Law**

(PSHE 11 - 16 worksheet 8)

Target age group: 11 - 14 year-olds and 14 - 16 year-olds

Preparation: Download/photocopy [You and the Law](#) sheet.

Structure: Depending on the ability of the students, they might complete activity 1 and either 2 or 3 in one lesson. 2 and 3 could be used for homework activities.

## Objectives

To help students understand:

- o the law as it affects them
- o why laws exist
- o what might happen in the absence of laws
- o that problems with alcohol can occur even if the law isn't broken - personal responsibility.

## Activity 1

Before being given the worksheet, students could be asked to state what they think the law says in relation to:

- o drinking alcohol in pubs and bars
- o buying alcohol in shops and supermarkets
- o whether or not parents can give children alcohol.

## Activities 2 and 3

One activity is about two boys and the other about two girls; students could choose which one to explore. The questions are similar in some instances but raise different issues, which often affect one sex more than the other.

## Activity 2 Question 1

The police may consider Simon to be drunk in the street for which he could be arrested. However, they haven't purchased alcohol under age, even if they shouldn't have taken it from Simon's parents.

## Activity 3 Question 1

The girls have purchased alcohol in a pub under the age of 18, which is illegal. There are no right answers for most of the other questions. Therefore, this is ideal for group work so students can work out what they think are the best responses and share them with other groups.

## Extension activity

Direct students to the Fact Zone of the Online Learning Zone [talkaboutalcohol.com](#).

**Drinking and driving**

(PSHE 14 - 16 worksheet 4)

Target age group: 14 - 16 year-olds

Structure: 1 lesson

Preparation: Download/photocopy [Drinking and driving](#) sheet.

Possible research using our Online Learning Zone, [talkaboutalcohol.com](#)

## Objectives

- o To help students work out for themselves why drinking and driving don't mix.
- o To reinforce the effect of alcohol on the body and behaviour.
- o To establish that the effects of alcohol on the body and on people's behaviour are different but both impact on driving.

## Notes

Students could also prepare posters to educate people about not drinking and driving, or scripts for a short film, or radio or TV advertisement. Take a look at the [think.direct.gov.uk](#) website for inspiration.

**Drinking and driving don't mix**

(Science/environmental studies 14 - 16 worksheet 9)

Target age group: 14 - 16 year-olds

Structure: 1 written lesson

Preparation: Download/photocopy [Drinking and driving don't mix](#) sheet.

## Objectives

- o To understand the effects of alcohol on the body in relation to legal restrictions on drinking and driving.
- o To draw distance and speed graphs.
- o To show the factors affecting stopping distances.

## Notes

The calculations and graph could be finished at home. Students should use the [think.direct.gov.uk](#) for recent facts, figures and campaigns.

## YOU AND THE LAW

## PSHE 11-16 WORKSHEET 8

Read the summary below of the laws that apply to young people about drinking and buying alcohol in the UK

- It is illegal to give alcohol to under 5s. Children who are 5 years-old or over can drink at home if supervised by an adult.
- Under 14? It is at the Landlord's discretion as to whether children are allowed anywhere in a pub. They cannot of course buy or drink alcohol on the premises.
- Under 18? Adults are not allowed to buy alcohol on behalf of under 18s in a licensed premise. The only exception is for 16 or 17 year-olds who are allowed to drink beer, wine or cider with a meal if with an adult (but they may not by the alcohol themselves).
- The restrictions apply to purchasing (i.e. you can't buy alcohol if you are under 18) and location (i.e. you can't drink in a licensed premises or in a public place if you are under 18).
- Police have the powers to confiscate alcohol from under 18s drinking in public spaces (e.g. on the street or in parks). They also have the power to stop someone over 18 knowingly buying alcohol for someone under age (buying by proxy).

Drinking and driving: it's against the law for an adult to drive with more than 80 mg (milligrams) alcohol per 100 ml (millilitres) of their blood (or 50 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood in Scotland). They could face a fine of over £5,000, six months in prison and having their licence taken away for at least a year. Causing death through drink-driving can result in a maximum prison sentence of 14 years and a two-year driving ban.

It is illegal to buy alcohol for someone who is drunk. It is also illegal to serve alcohol to someone who is drunk.

**ACTIVITY ONE**

Answer the following questions.

1. Why might a parent allow their child to taste some alcohol even if they aren't allowed to buy it themselves until they're 18?
2. Why do you think the law says that people under 18 can't buy alcohol from shops, off-licences and supermarkets?
3. Would it cause problems if children and young people were allowed to buy alcohol? If so, what would they be? And who would it be a problem for?
4. Look at the laws above. Would you change any of them or add new laws? Explain your answer.

## YOU AND THE LAW

## PSHE 11 - 14 WORKSHEET 8

**ACTIVITY TWO****Simon's 'big' night out**

David and Simon are 14 years-old and are old friends. They've been in the same class since they were six. They supported the same football team and share the same group of friends. Simon's parents arrange to go away for the weekend and Simon goes to stay with David. But Simon has a key to his house, and on Saturday night he invites a few mates back there to hang out in the empty house.

They soon find the cupboard containing a few bottles of alcohol and the boys have a glass each. Simon is nervous and drinks his glass very quickly, then David pours him another one. Before long, Simon is completely drunk. He gets very excited and rushes out into the street shouting his head off and charges off down the road. He knocks over some rubbish bins, starts yelling at his mates who have chased after him and gets into a scuffle with David. The police soon turn up and take Simon and David to the police station.

**Read the case study above, and then discuss these questions.**

1. Have any laws been broken?
2. Why do you think Simon behaved in the way he did? Why did David chase after him?
3. How do you think the police will react to their behaviour?
4. Will Simon's and David's parents get involved?
5. What do you think should happen next?

**ACTIVITY THREE****Girls' night out**

Antonia and Sara are both aged 14, but people say they look 18 when they go out. Antonia and Sara meet a couple of 18-year old boys on their way into town and they go into a pub with them. Antonia and Sara both decide to have an alcoholic drink.

The two girls are enjoying talking to the boys and soon agree to another drink. Then Sara starts to feel the effects of the alcohol - her head is beginning to spin and she feels a bit sick. She tells Antonia she wants to go home, but Antonia is furious because she wants to stay with the boys and doesn't want to leave.

Sara doesn't know what to do next. Should she go home on her own? Or should she accept a lift from the boy she's only just met, and who's had a couple of drinks too?

**Read the case study above, and then discuss these questions.**

1. Have any laws been broken?
2. Why is Sara in a risky situation?
3. Is Antonia in a risky situation? Explain your answer
4. What do you think Antonia should do next? And what should Sara do?
5. If a young person is drunk, do you think they are more at risk than an adult who is drunk? Explain your answer.

## DRINKING AND DRIVING

PSHE 14 - 16 WORKSHEET 4

## ACTIVITY ONE

1. In the table below, write down some of the skills you think people need to drive a moped, motorbike or car well. There are some prompt words which might help you think about different aspects of driving. An example has been added to start you off.

Prompt words:

- Pedestrians
- Other drivers
- Eyesight
- Darkness
- Speed
- Road signs
- Experience of driving
- Coordination
- Judging distances

Skills needed to drive a vehicle or motorbike well
1. You need to judge distances so you keep a safe distance from other vehicles
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.

## DRINKING AND DRIVING

## PSHE 14-16 WORKSHEET 4

2. Now fill in the table below to show the main effects of drinking alcohol on the body. There are two columns - you don't have to fill all the spaces - just write down those you think are most important. In the first, add the main physical effects of drinking alcohol on your body (what happens in the short term, not the effects of long-term drinking). In the second column, write down how drinking alcohol can change people's behaviour.

To complete this table, you may want to look at the Fact Zone of our Online Learning Zone, [talkaboutalcohol.com](http://talkaboutalcohol.com). An example of each has been added to start you off.

Effects of alcohol on the body	Possible effects of alcohol on behaviour
1. Slows down your speed of reaction	1. Can make you more aggressive
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.
6.	6.
7.	7.
8.	8.

3. Now compare your two tables from questions 1 and 2. For each driving skill, decide which effect of alcohol on the body or on behaviour would affect that driving skill.
4. In about 50 words, summarise the main reasons why alcohol affects a person's ability to drive safely.

**DRINKING AND DRIVING****PSHE 14 -16 WORKSHEET 4****ACTIVITY TWO**

If you have a group of friends and some of them drive, there is a good way to deal with drink-driving. You choose (designate) someone from your group before you go out who will not drink and will drive the others, ensuring they get home safely.

Information on schemes can be found via [dft.gov.uk/think/](http://dft.gov.uk/think/)

Write a script of a short video or a create a poster to convince a group of friends to always designate a driver or to go in a car of a designated driver. Some important things to consider for your post or video script are:

- it should not always be the same person i.e. everyone has a turn
- your message should appeal to both sexes
- the designated driver is the hero of the evening, bringing everyone home safely.

# DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX

## SCIENCE/ ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 14 - 16 WORKSHEET 9

There are strict legal limits for the maximum amount of alcohol that can be in a person's blood when they drive. This is because drinking alcohol (even just one drink) affects a person's judgement and reduces their ability to see and hear things clearly. These effects make it much more likely that the driver will be involved in an accident.

Alcohol's effect on the brain slows down a person's reaction times - they take longer to respond to situations and hazards. If the person is driving a car (or riding a moped, motorcycle or bicycle), their 'thinking distance' is increased. For example, if a cat ran out in front of the car, there is a short delay between the driver seeing the hazard and putting their foot on the brake. The distance travelled by the car during this time is the 'thinking distance'. It is estimated that just one alcoholic drink can increase a driver's thinking distance by up to 20%.

In England, Northern Ireland and Wales it's against the law for an adult to drive with more than 80 mg alcohol per 100 ml of their blood. The limit is now lower in Scotland at 50 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood. Because you can't measure blood alcohol concentration (BAC) simply by the number of drinks you've had, people who are planning to drive should avoid drinking any alcohol beforehand. If they break the law, they could be facing a fine of £5,000, six months in prison and have their licence taken away for at least a year. Drivers who have drunk alcohol are also much more likely to have an accident. If they kill someone through drink-driving, they can face 14 years in prison followed by a two-year driving ban.

### ACTIVITY ONE

Look at the table below. It shows the thinking distance and the braking distance - which together make up the total stopping distance - for cars at different speeds on a dry road with good brakes. Distances are given in metres (m) as well as car lengths (where 1 car = 4m long) The speed of the car is given in metres per second (m/s) and miles per hour (mph)

Car speed		Thinking distance		Braking distance		Total stopping distance	
m/s	mph	m	cars	m	cars	m	cars
13	30	9	2.25	14	3.5	23	5.75
22	50	15	3.75	38	9.5	53	13.25
30	70	21	5.25	75	18.75	96	24

**DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX**

## SCIENCE/ ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES 14 - 16 WORKSHEET 9

1. Plot a graph to show how thinking distance, braking distance and total stopping distance are affected by the speed of the car. What conclusions can you draw?
2. Assuming that two alcoholic drinks add a total of 20% to the thinking distance of a driver, work out the new total stopping distance if the driver had consumed these drinks. Plot your results on a graph.
3. How does alcohol affect the stopping distance? How does this differ with the speed of the car?
4. Explain why it is not advisable to drink alcohol before driving a car, or riding a motorcycle, moped or bicycle. How might this risk increase as the driver's BAC increases?
5. Why should pedestrians be careful about how much alcohol they drink?

