

## School balls and event advice

Police aim to prevent alcohol related harm, as well as foster a culture of responsible alcohol consumption. Police's approach is applying the Graduated Response Model outlined below. Police recognise the need to work alongside our communities to ensure that our young people have fun during the ball season and beyond and stay safe.

### Graduated Response Model

At all times Police apply a common sense and graduated response to achieve these aims:

**Engage** with the parties and communicate with them to identify whether their current behaviour or activities are contrary to expectations

**Educate** people on the current requirements (if necessary) to correct their behaviour or activities

**Encourage** compliance measures if required

**Enforcement** - only resort to prosecutorial measures if necessary.

### Ministry of Education

- The Ministry of Education provides guidelines for schools to consider when reviewing or developing their school policy regarding the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol on school grounds, school events and in (or not in) the presence of students, here: [‘Developing a policy on the sale, supply and consumption of alcohol’](#).
- There are also guidelines to assist schools when dealing with property in situations where the safety of students, staff or the school is compromised.

### Advice for parents

Police encourage parents and party hosts to be aware of their responsibilities when supplying alcohol to young people/minors/persons who are under the purchase age.

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 has specific offences in relation to supplying alcohol to those under the purchase age. There are provisions for parents or guardians to supply alcohol to their child, or where express consent has been given, they may allow another person to supply alcohol to their child in a responsible manner.

If you are organising an after-ball event, be aware of legal obligations, specifically what constitutes ‘responsible manner’. Party hosts must meet responsibilities akin to those of Duty Managers of licenced premises.

These responsibilities include:

- active supervision of young people/minors/persons under the purchase age and alcohol;
- provision of food;

- choice of low or non-alcoholic drinks to be made available;
- the nature event (including the size);
- provision of safe transport options home;
- the period over which the alcohol is supplied;
- the strength and volume of alcohol;
- the age of the minor;
- any other relevant matters.

If you are hosting an after-ball event ensure you have spoken to the parents of the young people/minors/persons under the purchase age to whom you are supplying alcohol, and that they have given their express permission. Both host and parents of attendees need to understand host responsibilities.

Ensure there is plenty of food, water as well as non-alcoholic drinks and everyone can get home safely.

Most importantly actively supervise your party to ensure young people/minors/persons under the purchase age have a safe and positive experience.

Contact your local Police if you have any questions.