



Alcohol and young people

You can be stopped, fined or arrested by police if you're under 18 and drinking alcohol in public.

If you're under 18, it's against the law:

- for someone to sell you alcohol
- to buy or try to buy alcohol
- for an adult to buy or try to buy alcohol for you
- to drink alcohol in licensed premises (such as a pub or restaurant)

However, if you're 16 or 17 and accompanied by an adult, you can drink (but not buy) beer, wine or cider with a meal.

If you're 16 or under, you may be able to go to a pub (or premises primarily used to sell alcohol) if you're accompanied by an adult. It can depend on the specific conditions of the premises.

It's illegal to give alcohol to children under 5.

Working in a restaurant or bar under 18

You can serve alcohol in a restaurant if you're 16 or 17 as long as the licence holder or bar manager has approved the sale.

You may be restricted to selling alcohol in sealed containers (such as cans or bottles) in some areas.

Updates to the above information can be located via

<https://www.gov.uk/alcohol-young-people-law>