# UK teacher banned for two years after drinking wine before class amid wider substance abuse concerns



A teacher in the UK has recently been barred from the classroom for two years after admitting to consuming alcohol before teaching, highlighting ongoing concerns about substance abuse in the education sector. Lesley Beuscher's case sent ripples through the educational community when she was found to have been drinking a “Costa cup of wine” prior to leading a class of young pupils on 26 June 2023. Although she claimed that her alcohol consumption would not impair her teaching abilities, the testimony from another faculty member painted a concerning picture.

Witnessed by a colleague, known as Witness A, Beuscher displayed signs of confusion and slurred speech, leading the witness to initially suspect a potential medical emergency. However, upon closer inspection, the unmistakable smell of alcohol confirmed their suspicions, prompting an urgent intervention. Following her removal from the classroom, Beuscher expressed remorse, admitting that the “children deserved better.”

This incident is not isolated; it reflects a troubling pattern of similar cases across the educational landscape. Earlier disciplinary actions have seen several educators face prohibitions for alcohol-related misconduct. For example, Natalie Arcos-Diaz, a deputy head teacher in Leicester, was banned for attending school under the influence on multiple occasions. Witnesses reported her slurred speech and lack of balance during her tenure. Furthermore, her failure to disclose a previous drink-driving conviction during her application for a head teacher role was particularly damning. The Teaching Regulation Agency deemed her actions significantly below professional standards, resulting in an indefinite prohibition order.

Similarly, Liam Knight, a swimming teacher in Norwich, faced a two-year ban for being intoxicated during lessons. A bottle of rosé wine was found hidden in staff toilets, reinforcing the belief that such behaviours are disturbingly prevalent among some educators. Moreover, James Langley and Michela Hall also faced bans for consuming alcohol on school premises, underscoring a systemic issue that compromises the integrity and safety of educational environments.

The Teaching Regulation Agency has consistently maintained that such actions expose pupils to unnecessary risks, leading to disciplinary measures that include prohibition orders. These orders are often accompanied by review periods to evaluate whether individuals can return to teaching. The panel overseeing Beuscher's case noted the conscious choice she made to consume alcohol prior to the school day, directly compromising her ability to provide a safe environment for her students.

In a profession dedicated to nurturing young minds, these incidents highlight the crucial need for strict adherence to professional standards. As evidenced by the repeated violations seen in various cases, there remains a pressing requirement for robust support and monitoring mechanisms to help educators maintain their responsibilities without succumbing to harmful behaviours. With the welfare of vulnerable pupils at stake, these regulatory measures play a vital role in restoring trust and ensuring accountability within the educational system.

As the two-year prohibition looms for Beuscher, the hope is that thorough reflection and rehabilitation will follow, with an ultimate aim to prevent future occurrences of such alarming conduct in schools.

### Reference Map

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Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/teacher-banned-lesley-beuscher-alcohol-b2749290.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy8pn9n9w37o> - A deputy head teacher in Leicester, Natalie Arcos-Diaz, was banned from the profession after attending school while apparently drunk on multiple occasions between September 2019 and February 2020. Witnesses reported her slurred speech and unsteady movements. Additionally, she failed to disclose a previous drink-driving conviction when applying for the head teacher position. The Teaching Regulation Agency concluded that her conduct significantly fell short of professional standards, leading to an indefinite prohibition order, subject to review after three years.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g3518p5v5o> - Liam Knight, a swimming teacher at Drayton Junior School near Norwich, was banned from teaching after being found drunk during a swimming lesson. He exhibited slurred speech and unsteady movements while supervising young pupils. A bottle of rosé wine was discovered in the staff toilets. The Teaching Regulation Agency determined that his actions constituted serious misconduct, resulting in a two-year prohibition order, with the possibility of review after two years.
4. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-58059006> - James Langley, a teacher at St Oswald's C of E Primary Academy in Bradford, was banned from the classroom after admitting to consuming alcohol on school premises and using offensive language towards a colleague. Colleagues reported his intoxicated state and strong smell of alcohol during a staff meeting. The Teaching Regulation Agency found his behavior to be unacceptable, leading to a prohibition order with a review period of two years.
5. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-63808590> - Michela Hall, a teacher at Lincoln House School in Burnley, Lancashire, was banned from teaching after being found drinking alcohol on school premises and engaging in inappropriate behavior with a pupil. She was seen drinking from a coffee cup that smelled of alcohol and was later observed wearing a pupil's clothing. The Teaching Regulation Authority concluded that her conduct significantly fell short of professional standards, resulting in a prohibition order with a review period after two years.
6. <https://news.sky.com/story/teacher-banned-after-hugging-and-kissing-pupils-at-year-11-prom-11807138> - Chris Naylor, a teacher at Congleton High School in Cheshire, was banned from teaching after being found drunk and engaging in inappropriate behavior with pupils at a Year 11 prom. He admitted to drinking alcohol before the event and was witnessed hugging, kissing, and dancing closely with students. The Teaching Regulation Agency determined that his actions brought the profession into disrepute, leading to a prohibition order with a review period of two years.
7. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-sussex-49662502> - John Stanway, a science teacher at Hazelwick School in Crawley, was banned from the classroom after arriving at school smelling of alcohol and exhibiting signs of being under the influence during a lesson. He played pop music from a laptop without explanation, leading to a noisy classroom environment. The Teaching Regulation Agency concluded that his conduct fell significantly short of professional standards, resulting in an indefinite prohibition order, subject to review after two years.