**Activity 1**

**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 charge any of them or add new laws? Explain your answer.