



Research Ethics Policy 2022 - 2024

Equality Impact Assessment: Askham Bryan College recognises the importance of the Equality Act 2010 and its duties under the Act. This document has been assessed to ensure that it does not adversely affect staff, students or stakeholders on the grounds of any protected characteristics.

1. POLICY STATEMENT

1.1 Askham Bryan College is committed to ensuring the good conduct of research undertaken by its staff and students, which includes:

- all undergraduate and postgraduate research
- staff research projects
- any research conducted with external collaborators and/or stakeholders.

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 This policy and procedure refer to staff and students at Askham Bryan College who have the opportunity to undertake research projects across a variety of disciplines.

3. PRINCIPLES

Askham Bryan College is committed to ensuring that research integrity and good practice underpin all of the Colleges research activities.

3.1. Researchers (staff and students) must:

- Accept responsibility for their own research conduct and practice
- Must demonstrate respect for the welfare, dignity and rights of the participants/subjects
- Ensure that any research projects involving human participants, animals and/or personal data must be reviewed and approved by the Ethics Panel before data gathering commences.
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- Ensure accurate completion of the ethics approval paperwork, appended in the Research Ethics Procedure, for presentation to the Ethics Panel.

3.2. The Ethics Panel will:

- Convene no less than twice a year and will be chaired by an experienced member of the academic staff.
- Review all research proposals to be conducted by staff, students (including projects involving external partners) for research involving animals or human participants;
- Protect the welfare, safety, dignity and rights of human participants and/or animal via robust judgements;
- Encourage a strong, ethically-sound, defensible research culture within the College;
- Promote developments that inform improvements to animal welfare and management through research;
- Support research project supervisors to council students/staff regarding the importance of promoting and protecting human and/or animal welfare.

3.3. Research Ethics

Studies involving animals must ensure that the highest ethical standards and welfare conditions for animals during the course of studies. Research proposals which involve animal subjects (including humans) are expected to meet all four of the following conditions:

- The project does not involve unnecessary invasive or obtrusive procedures;
- The aims, objectives and methodologies of the project are designed so that the outcome may inform improvements the care, welfare, management and productivity of animals;
- Evidence of risk assessment to health, safety and welfare demonstrating an understanding of the importance of promoting and protecting welfare;
- Where clients, owners, employers, or the public play a role, or in any other instance where permission must be sought, appropriate permissions are evident.

Studies involving human participants and/or personal data must ensure that participants rights are respected. Participants have the right to:

- Consent or decline: consent to participate in, withdraw from, or refuse to take part in research projects;
- Confidentiality: personal information should not be disclosed without participants' consent and anonymity should be offered;
- Security: data and samples collected should be kept secure and anonymized;
- Safety: participants should not be exposed to unnecessary risk;
- Knowledge: participants should be informed as to how personal data may be used.

Key legislation underpinning research ethics includes:

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- The **Animal Welfare Act 2006** which all students must engage with and apply the principles of. (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>)
- The **Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986** which relates to specific procedures normally requiring a Home Office Licence holder to undertake. Student projects of this nature are not normally encouraged at Askham Bryan College (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1986/14/contents>)
- The **Data Protection Act 2018** which relates to how data can be used and outlines users responsibilities regarding processing and sharing of personal information and data (<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents>).

4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

4.1 This policy refers to all research that is carried out by staff and students at Askham Bryan College, and is applicable to:

- Any staff member carrying out research at, or on behalf of, the College.
- Student undertaking research, and their supervisors
- Any person using the College facilities to undertake research

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Researchers

All researchers are obliged to conduct their research with:

- Integrity, honesty and due consideration of cultural sensitivity
- Minimal possible risk to themselves, the participants and/or subjects
- Responsibility for maintenance of ethical conduct and standards
- Consideration of their research from the perspective(s) of the participants and subjects involved/affected by it.

5.2. Research Ethics Panel

The Research Ethics Panel will:

- Protect the welfare, safety, dignity and rights of human participants and/or animal
- Review any research proposal for research involving animals or human participants
- Provide guidance for staff and students on research ethics and the design of ethically-sound research proposals
- Encourage a strong, ethically-sound, defensible research culture within the College
- Promote developments that inform improvements to animal welfare and management through research
- Support research project supervisors to council students/staff regarding the importance of promoting and protecting human and/or animal welfare

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6. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 6.1 This policy will be implemented by the Research Ethics Panel and will report to the HE Academic Board via the UCAB Research and Scholarship Committee.

7. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 7.1 The HE Academic Registrar will maintain oversight of the effectiveness of these arrangements via the Research and Scholarship Committee (RSC). This policy and the implementation arrangements which underpin it will be reviewed every two years by Chair of the Research Ethics Panel.

8. SUPPORTING/RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Research Ethics Procedure
- Research Ethics Application Form

9. REGULATIONS

- 9.1 In all aspects of the Admissions process the College will comply with the following legislation:
- The Data Protection Act 2018
 - General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Animal Welfare Act 2006

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