



Drugs and Alcohol Policy (Students) 2026 - 2028

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. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Substance misuse can seriously damage a person's physical health and mental wellbeing. The College is committed to creating and maintaining a safe working and learning environment in which the wellbeing of all students and staff are safeguarded.
- 1.2 It is the policy of the College that the misuse, possession, supply, production or abuse of illegal or other intoxicating and impairing substances will not be tolerated.
- 1.3 The College recognises that the majority of students will not be affected by illegal drug use, but it is important to highlight that the College does not condone the possession, use or supply of illegal drugs in, on, any premises under its control.
- 1.4 Where the abuse of drugs, alcohol, intoxicating or impairing substances is suspected, but where no criminal offence is committed the incident will be dealt with in accordance with the College's Behavior Intervention Policy. Appropriate support will also be provided.

2. SCOPE

- 2.1 This policy applies to all students across all sites.

Residential students

- 2.2 Residential students are subject to additional residential rules and the terms and conditions of their licence agreement. These regulations permit students over 18 to consume and store alcohol in their own room only. Breach of the residential rules will be dealt with in accordance with the Behavior Intervention Policy and may result in the withdrawal of residential accommodation.

3. DEFINITIONS

- 3.1 **Drugs:** Any substance that is taken into the body and alters the way in which the body functions physically/ emotionally/mentally and or which can also alter behaviour or produce a psychoactive effect. This includes illegal as well as legal substances, such as:

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- Legally available drugs such as alcohol, tobacco, vapes, caffeine and solvents;
- New/Novel psychoactive substances (NPS);
- Legal Highs. A term given to substances that are used recreationally but are not controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971), not licensed for legal use, and not regulated as a medicine (Medicines Act 1968);
- Research Chemicals. A term used for drugs which have a purpose in research but are also used recreationally. May carry a label 'Not for human consumption' such as:
 - Nitrous Oxide (NOS)
 - Over the counter and prescribed medicines such as tranquillisers and pain killers
 - Illegal drugs such as cannabis, ecstasy and heroin (list not exhaustive)
 - CBD (Cannabidiol) – the non-psychotic component found in illegal cannabis, including vape pens pre-loaded with CBD oil

Please note: this is not an exhaustive list.

3.2 **Illegal:** Any drug or substance included within the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

3.3 **Intoxicating:** Liable to cause someone to lose control of their faculties or behaviour.

3.4 **Impairing:** Weaken or damage something, especially faculty or function.

3.5 **Misuse:** Using a substance for any reason other than its intended use.

4. SEARCHING AND CONFISCATION

4.1 Staff nominated by the Principal and Chief Executive are authorised to conduct a search of students clothing, bags, property or room (if a residential student) should they have reasonable suspicions illegal, intoxicating or impairing substances are being carried, concealed or stored. **Two members of staff must be present during any search.** The student must be present during room searches where possible. This does not authorise routine room searches of a speculative nature.

4.2 Following a search, whether or not anything is found, a record of the person searched, the reason for the search, the time and the place, who was present and note the outcomes and any follow-up action, should be made on CPOMS.

General power to confiscate

4.3 Staff are specifically authorised to remove and confiscate any substances in a student's possession if they have reasonable grounds to believe that it may be alcohol, drugs or an intoxicating or impairing substance.

5. ALCOHOL

Under 18

- 5.1 **The College does not condone the use of alcohol by any student under the age of 18 at any time.** It is illegal for a person under 18 to purchase alcohol. In the event that a student under the age of 18 has been found to or is suspected to have consumed alcohol or have alcohol in their possession, then College's Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures will apply.

Over 18

- 5.2 **The College does not condone the consumption of alcohol by any student during a student's timetable hours regardless of age;** this also includes coming into College under the influence of alcohol from the night before or the morning prior to arriving.
- 5.3 If an over 18 student has been found to, or suspected to, have consumed alcohol that renders them under the influence in College hours, or to the extent outside college hours that significant intervention is required, then the Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures will apply.

Supply of alcohol to under 18's

- 5.4 If a student over 18 has purchased alcohol for an underage student, then this will be addressed in accordance with the College's Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures.

Residential Over 18

- 5.5 Any residential student over the age of 18 who resides on site is allowed to have in their possession/consume a reasonable amount of alcohol outside of College teaching hours.

Breathalysing

- 5.6 A student suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol may be asked to give a sample of their breath by blowing into a breathalyser.
- 5.7 The breathalyser test will be carried out by either the Student Services Manager or Residential Services Manager or one of their appointed deputies.
- 5.8 Students suspected of unauthorised consumption of alcohol will be asked to consent to the breathalyser test before it is administered. Failure to do so will lead to a Stage 3 intervention under the College's Behaviour Intervention Policy. See <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/publication-scheme-student-services/> for further details.

6. SMOKING AND VAPING

- 6.1 It is illegal to purchase cigarettes and vapes for students who are under the age of 18. In the event that a student has been found to have purchased cigarettes or vapes for any student under 18 years old, then the College's Behavior Intervention Policy and Procedures will apply.

7. REPORTING OF INCIDENTS

- 7.1 In the event that a student is found either using or supplying drugs, alcohol, intoxicating or impairing substances, the College reserves the right to inform the police.

8. SUPPORT

- 8.1 Support is available for students who have issues with, or are struggling with, addiction.
- 8.2 The College Wellbeing Team has an important role to play in helping students who are motivated to reduce their use of alcohol or stop using drugs. The service will offer support for students, which may involve external services, internal counselling or other appropriate targeted support. See also Appendix A for details of organisations that can provide support for substance abuse and addiction.

9. RESPONSIBILITIES

- 9.1 The Assistant Principal – Student Life will have overall responsibility for ensuring compliance with this Policy. The Assistant Principal – Student Life will be assisted by the Student Services team to ensure compliance with this Policy, in particular the Student Services Manager and Residential Services Manager.

10. REVIEW AND MONITORING

- 10.1 The Assistant Principal – Student Life will maintain oversight of the effectiveness of these arrangements. This Policy and the implementation arrangements which underpin it will be reviewed every 2 years by the Assistant Principal – Student Life, assisted, where necessary, by the Student Services team.

11. SUPPORTING/RELATED DOCUMENTS

Drugs and Alcohol Procedures
Student Charter
Behavior Intervention Policy
Behavior Intervention Procedures
Support for Study Policy
Support for Study Procedures
Drugs: DfE and ACPO Drug Advice for Schools (2012)
Keeping Children Safe in Education 2021

12. RELEVANT LEGISLATION

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
Psychoactive Substances Act 2016

13. DOCUMENT HISTORY

Date of Issue: 2nd October 2026
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SLT Owner: Assistant Principal – Student Life
Author: Assistant Principal – Student Life
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APPENDIX A

Addaction is one of the UK's largest specialist drug and alcohol treatment charities. As well as adult services, they provide services specifically tailored to the needs of young people and their parents. The Skills for Life project supports young people with drug misusing parents.

Website: www.addaction.org.uk

ADFAM offers information to families of drug and alcohol users, and the website has a database of local family support services.

Tel: 07442 137421

Please note: Adfam does not operate a helpline - see help for families for further information (<https://adfam.org.uk/for-families/>)

Email: admin@adfam.org.uk

Website: www.adfam.org.uk

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco.

Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk

Website: www.ash.org.uk

Drinkaware - An independent charity that promotes responsible drinking through innovative ways to challenge the national drinking culture, helping reduce alcohol misuse and minimise alcohol related harm.

Tel: 0300 123 1110

Tel: 020 7766 9900

Email: contact@drinkaware.co.uk

Website: www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners:

Website: www.drugeducationforum.com/

DrugScope is a centre of expertise on illegal drugs, aiming to inform policy development and reduce drug-related risk. The website includes detailed drug information and access to the Information and Library Service. DrugScope also hosts the Drug Education Practitioners Forum.

Tel: 020 7234 9730

Email: info@drugscope.org.uk

Website: www.drugscope.org.uk

FRANK is the national drugs awareness campaign aiming to raise awareness amongst young people of the risks of illegal drugs, and to provide information and advice. It also

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provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs.

24 Hour Helpline: 0300 1236600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com

Website: www.talktofrank.com

Re-Solv (Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse)

A national charity providing information for teachers, other professionals, parents and young people.

Talk to us over the phone on 01785 817885 – we can always call you back to save your phone bill

Text or Whatsapp on 07496 959930

Live chat with us by clicking the box at the bottom of the screen (<https://www.re-solv.org/contact-us/>)

Email us at info@re-solv.org

Website: www.re-solv.org

NHS stop smoking services - help you quit

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/nhs-stop-smoking-services-help-you-quit/>