



HAMPSTEAD
FINE
ARTS
COLLEGE



2026-2027

Hampstead Fine Arts College

Smoking, Alcohol & Drugs Policy

Tobacco, e-cigarettes/vapes and alcohol are absolutely forbidden. This rule is in response to the law of the land and the interests of students' health and wellbeing. This includes all educational activities – including College arranged trips and visits.

This is a whole-college policy that applies to all students. All restrictions mentioned in this policy on smoking, alcohol and drugs apply also to staff, contractors and visitors whilst on College premises. At Hampstead Fine Arts College the physical and mental wellbeing of our students is our priority. All staff and governors of the College fully recognise their responsibilities to promote the welfare of the students and make sure that their learning environment is a safe one. We expect parents to actively support this policy.

Smoking and e-cigarettes/vapes:

Hampstead Fine Arts College is a public place and, thus, a no-smoking environment. No members of the College community nor visitors to the college are permitted to smoke anywhere on any of the school sites. Smoking or being in possession of cigarettes or tobacco is prohibited whenever a student is under the college authority. This is the period during, before and after the College day, both inside all College buildings and in the vicinity of the college, including Englands Lane, Belsize Park Gardens and Eton Avenue. It also includes any activity organised by the College.

First offences involving tobacco or vapes will have College-based sanctions including detention and temporary exclusion. At all times parent/s will be informed. Repeat or more serious offences will involve a meeting with the Principal or Deputy Heads, a programme of rehabilitation as well as possible College exclusions. In all these cases parents will be informed.

We regard information about personal health as an integral part of education at Hampstead Fine Arts College and this is developed through the PHSE, Enrichment programme of talks and in Personal Tutorials.

Alcohol

Students are forbidden from bringing alcohol on to the College premises or to be under the influence of alcohol, during the College Day either in College, off site, while travelling to or from College or while otherwise under the care of the College. If a student knows or suspects that another student is under the influence of alcohol, they should inform a member of staff. Any member of staff who knows or suspects that a student is under the influence of alcohol should inform a senior member of staff such as the Deputy Heads or Principal. If the student is at College during the day they should be escorted to the most appropriate office where their welfare will be assessed.

If a student is incapacitated by alcohol then the assistance of a first aid officer should be sought and a decision taken as to whether they can be picked up by parents or need hospital care.

Drugs

We are committed to promoting a healthy, safe environment at the College, in which good citizenship and respect for the law can flourish. We believe that it is important to deliver a clear, consistent moral framework that promotes the integrity of our community, and gives all of our pupils the understanding, self-confidence and strategies to withstand pressure to experiment with drugs and other harmful substances, especially in social settings.

This policy has been drafted in accordance with the Department for Education's guidance 'Drugs: Guidance for Schools (September 2012)'

This policy covers all illegal drugs. So-called legal highs no longer exist: all psychoactive substances are now illegal. The policy also covers:

- Legally purchased or prescribed medication being used other than for its intended use, such as anti-depressants, sedatives and Ritalin.
- Substances that are not illegal but have an intoxicating, stimulating or hallucinating effect, as well as the use of animal, mineral or vegetable products which have this effect, such as magic mushrooms. Students misusing such substances will be dealt with in the same way as those who use illegal substances.
- Any item that can be legally purchased for the purpose of misuse, such as glue, solvents and steroids.
- Any drug paraphernalia

The above are examples and this list is not exhaustive.

Drug and Alcohol Education

The College endeavours to inform and educate students about the dangers of drug and alcohol misuse. This information is conveyed through the PSHE programme and through Enrichment talks and Personal Tutorials. The College aims:

- to promote a healthy lifestyle through informed judgements;
- to educate pupils about the effects of drugs and alcohol on the mind and body by providing them with accurate, up-to-date and age-appropriate information, enabling them to make more informed and positive choices;
- to equip pupils with the skills needed to deal with situations involving drugs and alcohol, and help them to develop the moral courage to reject peer group pressures which may lead to experimentation, by promoting the individual's self-esteem and self-confidence. This is achieved through discussion, role-playing and the use of resources from outside agencies;
- to explain the legal situation regarding the use of drugs and alcohol;
- to enable pupils to identify sources of appropriate support and advice;
- to actively discourage the use of illegal drugs and the abuse of alcohol and to inform pupils that the use of illegal substances on school premises is treated as serious misconduct;
- to ensure compliance with the criminal law under which it is an offence for any person to possess, use, supply or sell controlled drugs or for the College to allow its premises to be used for those purposes;

The College's additional aims of alcohol education include helping pupils:

- to recognise that alcohol is a drug, and that young people are particularly vulnerable to its effects;
- to understand the reasons that people may choose to drink or not to drink alcohol;
- to explore the relationship between alcohol consumption and risks to health;
- to identify strategies for safer drinking; and
- by recommending appropriate agencies for advice and support.

Concerns about substance misuse

Anyone, including students, staff and parents, who has a concern about substance misuse should pass the information on to the Principal or Deputy Heads and it will be handled with sensitivity. Changes or deterioration in a student's behaviour, appearance or work may indicate substance misuse.

Drug testing

Where there are concerns about substance misuse the student will meet the Principal or other senior member of staff to discuss the matter, including the possibility of drug testing. The College reserves the right to take a student for a drugs test without warning. The form of the drug test will usually be a urine sample, but hair and blood samples may also be taken. The drugs test is usually administered by the Same Day Doctors Clinic, 2 Queen Anne St, Marylebone, London W1G 8HL. The consent of a student aged 16 or over will be sought, and parents will be informed. If the student is under 16, the consent of the parent will be sought. In some circumstances, parents will be asked to arrange the drug testing of their son or daughter themselves and sometimes a programme of regular drug testing organised by the parents will be agreed with the College. If a student (or parent on behalf of the student)

refuses to provide a sample, they will be asked why, and the College will be entitled to draw their own conclusions from the refusal. A refusal or a positive drugs test may lead to permanent or temporary exclusion from the college. Cases will be dealt with on an individual basis.

A student offering, dealing or supplying drugs to another student jeopardises their place in the College. In these cases, the matter may be referred to the police.

Support

If a student comes forward and voluntarily identifies themselves as a drug user (or as having an alcohol problem) and asks for help, or if their parents or friends ask for help on their behalf, the College may, depending upon the circumstances and at the discretion of the Principal, offer the student the opportunity to reform their habit with the support of the College and external services. In cases of this kind, sanctions will not be applied. Details of useful organisations are set out in the Appendix.

Action

If a student knows or suspects that another student has taken drugs or is under the influence of drugs, they should inform a member of staff. A First Aider will be called, and the welfare of the student will take priority. The college will liaise with parents, medical services, the police and other agencies as necessary.

In accordance with the guidance contained within DoFE Searching, Screening and Confiscation (January 2018) the Principal and staff authorised by her have statutory powers to search students with or without their consent when they have reasonable grounds to suspect a student may have a prohibited item such as cigarettes, vapes, alcohol or drugs. Any search of students' personal belongings will be carried out in accordance with section 550ZA of the Education Act 1996 and with regard to any guidance issued by the Secretary of State. A search of a student may include a search of the outer clothing, and bags. Staff may confiscate items and these items may not be returned.

August 2026

Reviewed by: JC

Appendix 1

Useful Organisations

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. 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: 020 7553 7640 Email: admin@adfam.org.uk www.adfam.org.uk

Alcohol Change works to reduce the incidence and costs of alcohol-related harm and to increase the range and quality of services available to people with alcohol-related problems Tel: 020 7264 0510. <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/>

ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) A campaigning public health charity aiming to reduce the health problems caused by tobacco. Tel: 020 7739 5902 Email: enquiries@ash.org.uk 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: 020 7307 7450 www.drinkaware.co.uk/

Drug Education Forum – this website contains a number of useful papers and briefing sheets for use by practitioners: 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 7520 7550 Email: info@drugscope.org.uk 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 provides support to parents/carers, helping to give them the skills and confidence to communicate with their children about drugs. 24 Hour Helpline: 0800 776600 Email: frank@talktofrank.com 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. Tel: 01785 817885 Information line: 01785 810762 Email: information@re-solv.org www.re-solv.org