**Beacon Alternative Provision**

**Drugs and Alcohol Policy**

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**Date**: April 2025
**Written by**: O'Connell/Field
**Review Due by**: April 2026

**Why This Policy Exists**

At Beacon Alternative Provision, we want our school to be a safe, healthy place for everyone. This policy is here to:

* Help keep students and staff safe
* Make sure everyone understands our rules around drugs and alcohol
* Guide staff on how to handle any drug-related incidents
* Support students through education and clear boundaries

This policy applies to everyone—students, staff, families, and visitors—on site, on trips, or during travel to/from Beacon AP.**What We Mean by “Drugs”**

We use the term “drugs” to include:

* Illegal drugs (like cannabis, ecstasy, etc.)
* Legal drugs (alcohol, tobacco, vapes, solvents)
* Prescription and non-prescription medicines
* “Legal highs” and other psychoactive substances

**Our Approach to Drugs and Alcohol**

Beacon AP has a **zero-tolerance policy** for:

* Bringing drugs or alcohol onto the premises
* Using or supplying drugs or alcohol during school hours or activities

We focus on education and support, but we take incidents seriously to keep everyone safe.

**What Happens If There's an Incident?**

Here’s how we respond, depending on what’s involved:

**1. Alcohol**

* **1st time**: Confiscated, parents informed, logged as a safeguarding concern.
* **2nd time**: Further action, such as a risk assessment or agreement with parents.
* **Ongoing**: Referral to Social Services and a specialist team.

**2. Class C Drugs (e.g. some medications, ketamine)**

* **1st time**: Exclusion, meeting with parents, safeguarding log, warning given.
* **Repeated**: Further assessment, involvement of external services.

**3. Class A or B Drugs (e.g. cannabis, ecstasy)**

* Immediate exclusion, police informed, and a safeguarding log made.
* Referral to Social Services and a young people’s drug team.

**4. Cigarettes or Vapes**

* Students must not smoke or vape onsite while at Beacon.
* If caught, they will be asked to hand them in until the end of the day.
* Support to quit smoking is offered.

**5. Dealing or Sharing Drugs**

* Confiscation, police and social services contacted.
* Risk assessment and possible permanent exclusion.

**Prescription Medicines**

* Students can take prescribed medication if approved by parents/carers.
* All medicines must be stored and managed properly.
* Staff won’t give out non-prescribed meds unless parents give written consent.

**Alcohol and Staff**

* Staff must not drink alcohol during the workday or while responsible for students.
* If a staff member is struggling with alcohol, we offer support and referrals.

**Drugs Education**

We teach students about:

* The effects and risks of drugs
* How to stay safe and make informed choices
* Where to get help
* The law and consequences of drug use

This happens through lessons, discussions, and support sessions.

**Searching and Safety**

If staff believe a student has drugs or alcohol, we may:

* Ask to search bags or lockers
* Search outer clothing (not intimate searches)
* Take and safely store substances

Parents and carers will usually be informed after any search or confiscation.

**What If Drug Items Are Found?**

We will:

* Store them securely
* Contact the police if illegal substances are found
* Record what happened
* Follow up with the student and family

**Support and Referrals**

We can refer students and families to external services for support with drugs, alcohol, and wellbeing. We also advertise helplines and resources at Beacon.**Confidentiality**

We try to respect privacy but will always act if:

* A child is at risk of harm
* There’s a legal obligation (e.g. police involvement)

We will explain to students what information needs to be shared and why.

**Working with Families and Visitors**

* We usually involve parents/carers in drug-related incidents.
* If a visitor or parent appears under the influence, we’ll handle it calmly and safely.
* We may suggest alternative arrangements to ensure student safety.