

High Borrans' Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco Policy

The neutral environment provided by the Centre and its activity venues, coupled with the new relationships which become possible between staff and students, create a forum in which drugs, alcohol and tobacco issues can be addressed. For the purpose of this policy the term smoking includes vaping as well.

Activity time naturally creates many opportunities for instructors to lead discussion on issues arising from the use of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vaping. Evenings give teachers excellent opportunities to work with children and young people, individually or in small groups in a more relaxed manner than is possible in school.

High Borrans recognises that the misuse of D, A and T by children correlates closely with low self esteem. The raising of children's self esteem is both an immediate goal, and a desired lasting outcome, of every young person's residential.

Smoking

High Borrans has a long-standing policy of not allowing smoking in the building which is now national law. We encourage visitors who smoke to use High Borrans as an opportunity to cut down / quit, perhaps as an objective for the week. We do acknowledge that the residential experience due to the extended time element is difficult for some smokers. In recognition of this the policy is:

- No smoking is allowed anywhere in the building
- Smoking outside and away from the building, in specified locations and at appropriate times, may be agreed in extreme circumstances. Such smoking is to be supervised at all times by visiting staff. Any 'dog ends' must be extinguished and disposed of in a bin / container provided.
- No smoking is allowed on activities because of the risk of equipment damage and disruption to programme
- Clients must be warned in advance of these constraints
- Some contracting is acknowledged at commencement of the course
- Due to the unique nature of the residential setting visiting staff can be given a designated place out of doors in which to smoke discreetly.

Drugs

On some courses there is a real chance that groups may have brought illegal drugs with them. With such groups, and where we and visiting staff agree a need, we will warn students that:

- Schools' policy still applies

- The use of drugs is illegal
- We cannot tolerate any drug use in the Centre. The effects of drugs may make activities unsafe and instructors will cancel activities if they suspect clients are unable to participate safely.

Alcohol

On some courses there is a real chance that groups may have brought alcohol with them. With such groups, and where we and visiting staff agree a need, we will warn students that:

- Schools' policy still applies
- The consumption of alcohol by under 16's is illegal
- We cannot tolerate any alcohol consumption in the Centre as it may expose others that are vulnerable
- The effects of alcohol may make activities unsafe, and instructors will cancel activities if they suspect clients are unable to participate safely. These effects may be present the following day.
- Visiting staff are reminded of the need not to drink as part of their responsibilities while in loco parentis.
- Visiting adult courses are reminded of the need to moderate their drinking in the evening to remain responsible for themselves, each other and the building.

