



Smoking, Alcohol and Narcotics Policy

Smoking

Background UK Smoking Legislation

The minimum legal age to purchase tobacco products in the UK is 18, and it is illegal to supply tobacco/cigarettes to anyone under this age. In England it is legal to smoke in outdoor public places from the age of 16 but there is no minimum age to possess tobacco or smoke in private.

British law prohibits smoking inside any workplace building, which applies to all Churchill House school venues.

Smoking on Campus, School Premises & Homestay accommodation

This policy applies to smoking tobacco products, vaping and e-cigarettes.

- Churchill House is bound by any regulations placed on it by the venue. If the venue decides that smoking is barred on campus, this rule applies to all Churchill House staff and students.
- Smoking is only allowed in designated smoking areas and anyone – staff or students - found smoking outside of these areas will face disciplinary action.
- Smoking in residential buildings is forbidden. Anyone found doing so may face expulsion/removal by the venue, whether student or staff. Similarly, anyone attempting to tamper with smoke alarms will face disciplinary action.
- Used cigarettes and matches must be disposed of safely and sensitively.

Staff Smoking

Churchill House staff must:

- Not smoke on duty. This includes smoking on outdoor activities, excursion walking tours or waiting for coaches to appear.
- Not encourage students to smoke in any way, including offering them lights
- Not lend or supply cigarettes/tobacco to students under any circumstances
- Avoid smoking in front of students.

Student Smoking

Churchill House does not encourage smoking amongst its students but recognises that stopping students smoking is a parental responsibility and out of our remit, provided that the student is not breaking any UK laws. However:

- Adult students may only smoke in designated areas and only during designated breaks.
- Underage students found attempting to procure cigarettes will be disciplined
- Students may not supply tobacco/cigarettes to underage people as this is illegal in the UK

Note: Churchill House and its partner venues reserve the right to confiscate tobacco products from students deemed to be causing a nuisance or breaching any site rules.

Alcohol

Background UK Legislation on Alcohol Consumption

If you're under 18, it is against the law:

- for someone to sell you alcohol
- to buy or try to buy alcohol
- for an adult to buy or try to buy alcohol for you
- to drink alcohol in licensed premises (e.g. a pub or restaurant)

Students and Alcohol

Students must not bring alcohol onto the campus, whatever their age. If any staff member finds that a student has alcohol in their possession they must confiscate it or report it to the Centre Manager or DSL immediately.

Staff and Alcohol

Summer staff must always remember that they are working on a residential campus with minors and that they have a responsibility to ensure that they retain a high degree of professionalism at all times. All Churchill House Summer Centres are dry sites meaning no alcohol is permitted onsite (this is relevant for all staff and Group Leaders and visitors).

All staff may not drink alcohol or be under the influence of alcohol while on duty, nor can their professional performance be allowed to suffer due to alcohol consumption.

Staff must not:

- Keep alcohol or drink in their rooms
- Be seen by students with alcohol in their possession
- Be seen drinking or under the influence of alcohol by students
- Supply alcohol to any student, whether or not they are of legal drinking age

Narcotics

Churchill House has a zero-tolerance policy towards illegal narcotics – anyone found to be in possession of or using illegal narcotics will be disciplined and may be reported to the police.

Reviewed by: Kash Izydorczyk Welfare Manager
Sarah Adjani Operations Manager

Last updated: August 2025