



BEHAVIOUR & SUBSTANCE POLICY (INCLUDING VAPING)

Purpose

To ensure all young people experience a safe, supportive, and substance-free environment at The Ascent events.

A. Prohibited Items

The following are strictly prohibited:

- Cigarettes, vapes, and all nicotine or e-cigarette devices
- Alcohol, illegal drugs, or controlled substances
- Any items that could be used to cause harm to self or others

Bags may be checked if there is a safeguarding concern. Parents and participants are reminded of these rules before each event.

B. Behaviour Expectations

Participants must respect these boundaries at all times.

Failure to do so may result in parents being contacted and the young person being collected early.

C. If an Incident Occurs

If a participant is found in possession of a prohibited item:

1. Inform the Safeguarding Lead immediately.

2. If safe and permitted under policy, confiscate and store the item securely.
3. Record the incident in writing.
4. Notify parents/guardians as soon as possible.
5. Any serious or repeated breach will be reviewed by the event lead and safeguarding lead together.

D. Pastoral Approach

theASCENT recognises that some young people may struggle with addiction or peer pressure.

Our response is both firm and compassionate:

- Address the issue calmly and privately.
- Offer appropriate mentoring or pastoral support.
- Encourage honest dialogue with parents.
- Signpost to professional support where needed.

theASCENT reserves the right to amend or update this policy as necessary in order to maintain a safe and supportive environment.

Policy Review Date: 1st October 2026

Approved by: theASCENT Leadership Team

Last updated: 10th October 2025