

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1 York St John University acknowledges the importance of breastfeeding in the first two years of an infant's life. The World Health Organisation recommends that infants are exclusively breastfed for the first six months followed by complementary feeds until two years of age. Breastfeeding is a choice and should students at the University want to breastfeed their infant during their course, for an indefinite period of time, we will provide support as detailed in this policy. This includes being able to access facilities to express milk as well as breastfeeding on campus.
- 1.2 The University expects all members of the University community to be encouraging and positive towards persons who are breastfeeding. Discrimination and/or harassment of breastfeeding parents is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

2. Aim and Scope

- 2.1 The aim of this policy is to provide support to students who wish to breastfeed during their course. Parents who give birth must take a minimum of two weeks' leave immediately after the birth of their child (please see Parental Leave policy ([Section 8 in the Code of Practice for Assessment and Academic-Related Matters](#))). This policy provides a framework of support for students in ensuring that parents returning to the University are able to continue to breastfeed, should they choose to do so.
- 2.2 The policy applies to all students at the University (undergraduate, postgraduate taught, postgraduate research, degree apprenticeships) across all University sites.

3. Implementation

- 3.1 Breastfeeding parents and academic members of staff should make themselves familiar with this policy. Whilst the University timetable cannot be changed for single members of a cohort, academic tutors or research supervisors should be able to advise students who are struggling to identify breaks in periods of timetabled study.
- 3.2 In line with the Children on Campus Policy, students may be able to bring babies on to campus for breastfeeding. However, babies should not be present in scheduled teaching sessions. Should students wish to bring babies on to campus for breastfeeding in breaks during teaching sessions or for other student activities, then prior permission must be sought by the appropriate Head of Department in accordance with the [Children on Campus Policy](#).
- 3.3 Students can access the following on campus to support breastfeeding their child:

3.3.1 A private place to express milk

A private room will be available for students to breastfeed or express milk. The use of this room is shared with University employees. This will be private, lockable and clean, located near a sink with running water and have an electrical outlet. The rooms will be easily accessible and be dedicated solely for the purpose of breastfeeding and/or expressing.

The breastfeeding rooms on campus are:

- Holgate – HG037 – (a key is available from the Student Information desk in Holgate).
- Haxby Road site: a private space will be made available on request via a student’s academic tutor or research supervisor.
- London campus: a private space will be made available on request via a student’s academic tutor or research supervisor.

3.3.2 Storage space

There is a fridge available in the breastfeeding room in Holgate, and in the staff area on the London campus.

3.4 Students may choose to breastfeed in other non-teaching areas on-campus (e.g., the Dining Room in Holgate, the Library) and where their presence does not disrupt the normal operations of the University, its employees and its students.

3.5 A student’s responsibilities are as follows:

3.5.1 Hygiene

Students are responsible for leaving the breastfeeding/expressing room clean and tidy after use for the next user.

3.5.2 Storage

All milk stored in the fridge must be labelled with the student’s name, student number and date. Students are responsible for storage and transportation of the expressed milk.

3.6 Students are also able to [raise concerns](#) if they feel that their needs are not being met, or they are being discriminated against.

Version Control Statement

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Appendix A: Relevant policies and procedures and useful links

1. [Student maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave policy](#)
2. [Safeguarding Policy](#)
3. [Children on Campus Policy](#)
4. NHS UK Breastfeeding: [Breastfeeding | Feeding Your Baby | Start for Life \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)
5. National breastfeeding helpline: 0300 1000 212The Breastfeeding Network:
<https://www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk>