



## **SMOKING & VAPING POLICY**

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## **Aim**

To create a smoke and vape free school.

## **Objectives**

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a smoke free school environment for everyone,
- To provide young people with consistent messages regarding tobacco and drug use and appropriate role models.
- To provide young people with consistent messages regarding vape products including illicit vapes

## **Rationale**

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK.
- Second Hand Smoke – ‘breathing other people's tobacco smoke’ causes at least 1,000 people to die a year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day. 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers with 450 children starting smoking every day. (ASH)
- The school under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment.
- Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment, and this policy covers all staff, students, parents/carers, and visitors to the school.
- Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention.
- Young people need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people's exposure to seeing smoking. (ASH, 2004)
- Young people need to receive consistent messages - vaping in children and young people is prevalent despite clear advice from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence that vapes should not be used by children, or those who do not currently smoke, as nicotine is an addictive substance and the long term risks are unclear. The law bans the sale of vapes for persons under 18 and bans the proxy purchasing of vapes for children by adults.

## **E Cigarettes and vapes**

The smoking of E Cigarettes and any similar smoking cessation products are covered in this policy and should not be used in or around the school premises. The use of E Cigarettes and vapes should be treated the same as normal cigarettes. For the purpose of this policy references to “smoking” includes the use of E cigarettes and vapes.

## **E Cigarettes and vapes – Risks in children and young people**

Excessive use of vapes can produce nausea, sore throat, dizziness and headaches. In addition, there is a substantial market in illicit, unregulated vapes with an associated risk of a more extreme reaction. It is estimated that a quarter of the vapes sold to young people are not compliant with UK product regulations.

The majority of vapes contain nicotine which is an addictive substance. Nicotine may be more risky for young people than for adults, as evidence suggests the brain in adolescence is more sensitive to its effects. Additionally, unsafe, illegal vapes are available with recent reports showing they may contain dangerous levels of metals such as lead and nickel.

### **Restrictions on smoking and vaping**

Smoking and vaping will not be permitted in any part of the school's premises, including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway, sports pitches etc.) where this forms part of the school premises.

The enforcement of this total smoking and vaping ban is the responsibility of all employees within the school. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach this ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

This policy applies to employees, students, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the school's premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

The policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Employees should not smoke or vape within 100 yards of the school premises and should avoid being seen smoking and vaping in public in sight of students, parents and visitors in order to reinforce a comprehensive approach.

Non-compliance by students will be dealt with in accordance with the Schools' Behaviour Policy. This includes Incidents associated with vaping as follows:

- A child smoking or vaping in school or on school property
- A child reported to be smoking or vaping in the local community
- A child selling cigarettes or vapes to other students or peers
- A child with cigarettes or vapes in their possession in school
- Incidents related to cigarettes and vapes and coercion

Cigarettes and vapes are age restricted products, such as alcohol, they are both prohibited on site and will be confiscated and disposed of.

### **Reporting adverse reactions to vape products**

Reporting enables:

- Identification of youth vaping trends.
- Investigations into any dangerous substances and toxicity levels.
- Investigations into the legality of product.
- Assessment of risk and development of a locally co-ordinated plan where alerts need to be issued to prevent harm.

It is also important as part of the media management of any vaping adverse event on the school premises.

### **Yellow card scheme**

Excessive use of vapes will present as nausea, sore throat, dizziness and headaches. This should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MRHA) via the Yellow Card Scheme. The more data received through the Yellow Card process, the more action all of the regulators can take to try to improve the safety of the products.

### **Adverse reactions**

When a young person collapses or experiences an adverse effect seek help from the school nurse / accident and emergency and refer to your local young person's substance use service.

### **Identifying Illicit Vapes**

All vapes must comply with the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations and be labelled in accordance with the regulations for hazardous substances. The key requirements are listed below.

- Nicotine-containing vapes must not: -
  - have a nicotine strength of more than 20mg/ml or 2%
  - contain more than 2ml of nicotine-containing liquid
- The packaging (box) of a nicotine-containing vape must be labelled with:
  - Nicotine strength (e.g., 20mg/ml)
  - Volume of nicotine-containing liquid in the product (e.g., 2ml)
  - Stating the number of puffs is not sufficient on its own, but if any vape declares more than 1000 puffs, then it will contain more than 2ml of nicotine
  - Name, address and telephone number of a GB based responsible person (manufacturer or importer).
  - Health warning, which must be this exact wording: "THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NICOTINE WHICH IS A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE". This warning must appear on the front and back of the box and cover at least 30% of the area of each of those surfaces.
  - Ingredients list
  - Hazard symbol and associated signal word
  - Tactile warning, to alert blind and partially sighted users to the above dangers. This is in the form of a raised triangle – run your hand over the box to find it.

### **Cannabis and other illegal substances**

**Cannabis** - Vapes can be used to consume cannabis. A vapouriser is used to heat the cannabis, rather than burning it. Consumption of cannabis on school premises should be dealt with according to the school Substance Misuse Policy.

**CBD** - oil is legal to sell in the UK, and this includes the sale of CBD vape juice. However, UK law dictates that any CBD oil sold must contain no nicotine. It must also contain no detectable THC.

**THC** - vape liquid is illegal and can produce the same effect as cannabis. It may contain synthetic cannabinoids. These products are more potent than cannabis and can produce adverse reactions and behaviour change, including excessive sweating,

rapid heart rate, vomiting and fainting. THC liquid may also include vitamin E acetate. This is used to dilute the liquid and can produce a toxic gas with associated lung injuries. It is not possible to tell by sight if this has been added to the liquid.

### **Designated smoking and vaping areas**

There will be no designated smoking or vaping areas provided within the school premises.

### **Facilities for Smokers and vapers**

No facilities for smoking or vaping in the workplace will be provided, although support will be given to smokers to assist them to stop smoking and/or vaping. (See Help with smoking cessation).

### **Vehicles**

The ban will apply to all school owned / hired / leased vehicles. No one will be allowed to smoke or vape inside any school owned / hired / leased vehicle.

Employees are asked to refrain from smoking or vaping in their own vehicles, when used on school business and when carrying passengers.

### **Help with smoking cessation**

The school will support employees and students in school wishing to give up smoking or vaping by advertising and promoting external smoking cessation services and through regular health promotion activities. Any member of staff who wishes to access this support should contact the Director of Finance & Resources. Where practicable, requests from employees to attend smoking cessation programmes will be supported.

Resources will also be available to educate students and free specialist advice regarding health promotion activity.

### **Education and Publicity**

Students are provided with information in relation to maintaining and promoting healthy lifestyles throughout the curriculum which includes the risks associated with smoking and vaping.

### **New Buildings**

This policy will apply equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building, and refurbishment or relocation project.

### **Appointments**

This school is a 'No Smoking or Vaping' school and this should be made clear within all its appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

### **Links**

#### **➤ Health and Safety**

The above policy on smoking at work forms part of the school's Health and Safety Policy arrangements.

#### **➤ Drug Education**

Drug education, of which smoking and vaping education is a part, fits within the Science and PSHE Curriculum for Key Stages 1 to 4.

## **Review**

This will be reviewed every three years. Next review date: September 2027.

## **For further information**

If you require any further information, require a copy of the policy or have any comments about the Smoking and Vaping Policy, please contact the Director of Finance & Resources.

## **Trading Standards**

Trading standards teams should be contacted if you have concerns about underage sales of vapes and/or tobacco in their local community. These teams are also keen to be informed of any activity relating to illicit vape or tobacco products.

If you wish to report an incident to trading standards or require advice, please contact the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 0808 223 1133 or by email using the form at Reporting to [Reporting to Trading Standards - Citizens Advice](#)

## **Police**

Illicit products may pull crime into local areas. Therefore, is appropriate, the local police may also need to be made aware. This is a consideration that may need to be addressed in line with the school safeguarding and/or behaviour policy. The Department for Education's Searching, screening and confiscation guidance states that being in possession of a prohibited item, 'may mean that the pupil is involved, or at risk of being involved, in anti-social or criminal behaviour including gang involvement, and in some cases may be involved in child criminal exploitation'.

## **Resources for staff**

Resources to incorporate vaping into lessons or PHSE material include:

- The [Vaping year 9 lesson pack \(pshe-association.org.uk\)](https://www.pshe-association.org.uk/vaping-year-9-lesson-pack). The lesson includes the environmental cost of vapes and analyses ways to challenge influences and misconceptions about vaping.
- Talk to Frank on [Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](https://www.talktofrank.com). Talk to Frank provides clear, non-judgemental information on alcohol and drugs for young people. It has a 24 helpline on 0300 123 600.
- [ASH resources on youth vaping - ASH](#). This includes posters, leaflets, a short, animated film with associated notes and a classroom presentation.
- [PHE School Zone](#). These are three flexible bitesize sessions with film content aimed at Y7 & 8. The sessions cover the impact of vaping and the effects of nicotine on young people.

## **Resources to support students, staff, families and carers to quit smoking**



Schools are aware that many parents and carers may be smokers, with many making positive steps to a quit by using a vape. The resources below may be helpful for staff to support this.

The [Vaping to quit smoking - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/vaping-to-quit-smoking) NHS Better Health site provides information on vaping devices and e-liquids, side effects, and vaping in pregnancy. Details of the [Vaping to quit smoking - Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/vaping-to-quit-smoking) local stop smoking service can also be found via the Better Health site. The [Using e-cigarettes to stop smoking - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/using-e-cigarettes-to-stop-smoking) NHS Live Well site has information on vape safety and choosing the right vape for you.