

Smoking and Vaping Policy

CHANGING LIVES SCHOOL



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Next review due by: October 2026

This policy is disseminated to staff at relevant meetings and through line management and staff appraisal. The policy is referred to regularly in line with SEND training and is listed on the school website.

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Aims of the Policy

The policy seeks to:

- Provide a no-smoking or vaping environment both within the school building and grounds that protects the health of the whole school community and visitors to our school.
- Promote a healthy lifestyle by providing excellent role models for all young people and adults within the school.
- Equip young people with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, vape or use nicotine products either from their peer group, or from society in general.
- To set the example of a health-promoting smoke, vape and nicotine-free environment to our school and the wider community in line with government guidance and local priorities to reduce the prevalence of smoking or vaping and the associated risks.
- Guarantee the right of people who do not smoke or vape to breath in air that is free from second hand smoke or vapour.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke and the unknown long-term risks of vaping or nicotine. The long-term effects of second-hand vapour inhalation are yet unknown.
- Take into account the needs of those who smoke or vape and to support those who wish to stop.

Scope

This policy applies to all pupils, staff, visitors, contractors, and the wider school community. It covers all school premises, grounds, and school-related activities, including trips, events, and after-hours use of school facilities.

Policy Statements

Prohibition of Use and Possession

- The use, possession, or distribution of vaping devices, e-liquids, cigarettes and nicotine pouches are strictly prohibited on school premises, including car parks and outdoor spaces, and during school-related activities.
- This prohibition applies to all members of the school community, including staff, visitors, and contractors.

- Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the no-smoking or vaping policy. However, they are not expected to enter into any confrontation which may put their personal safety at risk.

Confiscation and Disposal

Any vaping devices, e-liquids, cigarettes or nicotine products found on school premises will be permanently confiscated and disposed of. As the lithium-ion batteries contained in vapes have, in isolated incidents, ignited when damaged or been improperly stored, they will be stored in a clearly marked container, away from flammable material until they can be safely disposed of via an appropriate facility.

More can be learned here: <https://recycleforgreatermanchester.com>

Reporting Illegal Sales

The school will report suspected proxy sales (adults purchasing vaping and smoking products for under-18s) or sales by retailers to under 18s as well as incidences where vapes are suspected to contain illegal substances.

Reports will be made to trading standards through the Citizens Advice online portal <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

Safeguarding and first aid policies will be followed if necessary.

1 Support for students

- Pupils found using or possessing cigarettes or vaping devices will be referred to the designated safeguarding lead.
- The school will prioritise support over punitive measures, offering resources and signposting to how to cut down and quit smoking and/or vaping.
- Parents/carers will be informed, and a signed acknowledgment may be requested to reinforce the message at home that cigarettes and vapes are banned in our school for health reasons.

2 Health Education

- The school will incorporate awareness education on smoking and vaping and its health implications for young people into its Health and Wellbeing curriculum.
- The school will seek guidance and advice from specialist support services such as <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/help-others-quit/young-people-and-vaping/>

3 Community Awareness

- The school will actively communicate this policy to all members of the school community, ensuring awareness of its content and purpose.
- Visitors will be asked not to smoke or vape directly outside school grounds.

Policy Development and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and up to date with current laws and best practices.

Implementation

The school leadership team will ensure this policy is effectively communicated and enforced. Staff will receive training on identifying signs of nicotine dependency and supporting affected students. The policy will be reviewed in line with the school's review cycle to ensure that it continues to meet the aims of the school.