

**Kick Ash Smoke Free/Vape Free Policy**

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| **Date** | **Review Date** | **Coordinator** | **Nominated Governor** |
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# Introduction

At our school, we take seriously our duty to promote children and young people’s wellbeing and their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. We see our commitment to creating a smoke/vape free environment and developing pupil’s knowledge, attitudes and skills in decision making around smoking/vaping as part of our work on keeping children and young people safe around drugs and managing risk.

# Definition

A drug is a substance that has a physiological effect on the body when introduced via the mouth, nose, or vein. (World Health Organisation). The term includes medicinal, non-medicinal, legal and illegal drugs. Therefore drug refers to nicotine as well as alcohol, volatile substances, medicines, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs).

# Aim

The aim of this policy is to ensure a whole-school approach to smoking /vaping in order to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke and to prevent the uptake of, and reduce the prevalence of, smoking/vaping across the school community.

# Objectives

* To provide a smoke free/vape free environment for the whole school community.
* To ensure that smoking/vaping education is part of the school’s progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco/vape use).
* To promote the Kick Ash ‘proud to be smoke free/vape free’ message to all children/young people.
* To ensure that all staff promote positive attitudes and behaviour in relation to smoking and vaping.
* To ensure that staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the smoke free/vape free policy.
* To involve all staff, governors, pupils, parents/carers and members of the wider school community including outside agencies as appropriate, in the development of policy and practice in relation to smoking /vaping.
* To adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking/vaping amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community.
* To involve the wider school community in interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking/vaping in children and young people, by providing support for parents and carers through helping them to talk to their children about smoking/vaping and other risk taking behaviours.
* To provide assistance for pupils, staff and other members of the school community who smoke/vape and wish to stop.
* To ensure that the school’s smoke free/vape free policy is applied when children / young people are taken off site.

# Rationale

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free/vape free environment.

Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Insufficient research has been completed in regard to vaping and its potential health implications to date.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England. Government Statistics state that in 2017, 77,800 deaths in England could be attributed to smoking ([www.gov.uk/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/statistics) on smoking - England – 2019) and kills half of all long term users.

In 2018, 5% of pupils were classified as current smokers. A current smoker is defined as usually smoking at least 1 cigarette per week. The proportion of current smokers increased with age: from less than 1% of 11 year olds to 11% of 15 year olds. Almost half (45%) of regular smokers said that they had smoked more than 20 cigarettes in the last week (<http://digital.nhs.uk/pubs/sdd18> - August 2019). Children are also more likely to smoke if their parents smoke and parental attitude to smoking is also an important factor (ash.org.uk Sept 2019)

Smoke free /vape free school sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role models for children and young people and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school.

This school includes the use of e-cigarettes/vaping (electronic cigarettes) in this policy due to the following reasons:

1. Although e-cigarettes/vapes are now regulated, we are still unsure about the safety of the product.
2. In 2019 15.4% of 11 – 18 year olds had tried vaping, compared to 16.0% in 2018; this is an increase from 2015 when12.7% of 11 – 18 year olds had tried e-cigarettes. (ash.org.uk 2019). In 2019 31.7% of 11-18 year olds said that the e-cigarette they used most often always contained nicotine; 34.2% said it sometimes contained nicotine; 19.6% that it never contained nicotine; with 14.4% saying they didn’t know. Ash.org.uk 2019 statistics indicate that 24.5% of young people buy their e-cigarettes/vapes through the internet, and these may not be regulated.
3. Young people may be influenced by adults’ smoking/vaping; Children who live with parents or siblings that smoke are 3 times more likely to become smokers themselves (ash.org.uk 2019). There are no current statistics in regard to children living with parents and siblings who choose to vape and the likelihood of them taking up vaping.

# Providing a smoke free environment (Procedure)

* This policy applies to students, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the school premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport students.
* Smoking/vaping is not permitted in any part of the school’s premises and grounds including the entrance area to the school, on land adjacent to the school building (e.g. car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc.) or on the school road crossing patrol areas. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.
* There are no designated smoking/vaping areas provided within the school buildings or grounds.
* The smoke free/vape free policy applies to all events / activities held in the school including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.
* Suitable posters, displays and statutory no smoking signage will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke free working environment. Vaping signage/posters are not statutory but can also be displayed
* Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business. **Please note: this is a statutory requirement.** Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport. Vaping is also included within our school policy, although not statutory at this time.
* This policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions/ visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking/vaping is not permitted when on duty / looking after students.

# Smoking/Vaping prevention activities (Procedure) Students

* Students are not permitted to smoke/vape when in uniform or when representing the school in any capacity. This includes all tobacco products and electronic (e) cigarettes.
* Employees are not permitted to smoke/vape in the view of pupils. Employees who do smoke/vape will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking/vaping by students (even if it is off the school grounds).
* Smoking/vaping education is part of the School’s progressive entitlement curriculum of drug education / PSHE (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco/vape use) which may be delivered across the curriculum (biology, chemistry, citizenship, geography, mathematics and media studies).
* A range of age appropriate methodologies will be used to deliver tobacco/vaping education with the aim of preventing the uptake of smoking/vaping including for example, the Kick Ash Programme, discussion strategies, use of new technologies, drama strategies including theatre in education and where appropriate use of outside agencies.
* The school supports smoking/vaping education through the transition phase from primary to secondary school through engagement in programmes such as Kick Ash.
* The Kick Ash mentors will be encouraged to participate in ‘smoke free/vape free’ activities throughout the school year and staff will support them with the chosen activities.
* Parents/carers are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child’s drug/tobacco/vaping education through home /school activities, education evenings etc.

# Staff

* Training on drugs including tobacco/vaping is available for all teaching staff as appropriate as well as pastoral staff and those involved in smoking/vaping prevention work including: the Head teacher, Year Heads, school governors, pastoral staff.

# Other Related Policies /Guidance

Within the School this policy is linked to/consistent with:

* Drug Education Policy
* PSHE Policy /Healthy and Wellbeing Strategy
* Health and Safety Policy
* Behaviour Policy
* Educational Visits Policy
* Confidentiality Policy
* Equality /Diversity Policy
* Staff Continuing Professional Development Policy
* Disciplinary Policy

# Responding to smoking related incidents

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the smoke free policy.

# Staff

The Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the school’s smoke/vape free policy.

The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking through linking them with appropriate support in the community.

# Students

In line with the guidance from the Kick Ash Programme, the following procedure will be followed for students in breach of the school’s smoke/vape free policy:

The student(s) will be offered the choice to see the smoking cessation advisor in school and begin a programme of support. If they choose not to seek support, a letter will be sent to parents/carers informing them of the support available and the sanction of the school applied.

In the first instance, support is be offered to quit smoking as nicotine is highly addictive and research shows that children /young people and adults are more likely to quit smoking with support from a smoking cessation advisor and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT). (www.nhs.uk) NRT is available on prescription for 12 years old and above and certain products can be agreed upon with your stop smoking advisor for example; lozenges but not gum.

# Non staff members/school visitors

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy.

# Assistance for those who smoke

* Local NHS Stop Smoking Services are available to staff, parents/carers and students who would like to stop smoking (*please note: this service should* ***not*** *be seen as a disciplinary action*). Free group and one-to-one support may be available for staff , students (age 12+) and parents/carers through their local Stop Smoking Service,CAMQUIT – Contact number 0800 018 4304. For full details of this service, including times and contact details for individual surgeries, check their website [www.camquit.nhs.uk](http://www.camquit.nhs.uk).
* Nicotine Replacement Therapy products are available on prescription if a staff member/student is trying to quit smoking or having difficulty with nicotine cravings during work hours. E-cigarettes are not available on prescription. NRT is available through pharmacies, local GP surgeries or the NHS Stop smoking service (CAMQUIT).
* Students, can also access services through the school nursing service or their GP Practice, or by contacting the NHS Specialist Stop Smoking Service on 0800 032 0102. Chathealth offers a texting service for young people to discuss smoking cessation and any other health concerns they may have. Details can be found on <https://www.cpft.nhs.uk/training/chathealth.htm>
* The school will promote these services regularly within the school and through parents’ /carers’ newsletters/ website etc.

# Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed and developed in consultation with the whole school community. It will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the school premises.

The policy will be monitored by the Head teacher to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

The policy will be reviewed every year and ratified by the Governing Body.

**Date of Next Review:**

**References**

Action on Smoking and Health - ash.org.uk 2019

<https://ash.org.uk/fact-sheets/>

NICE Public Health Guidance 23 (2010): School-based interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking among children and young people.

<https://www.vapemate.co.uk/blog/vaping-laws-regulations-uk-2019/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/e-cigarettes-and-vaping-policy-regulation-and-guidance>