



SAFE START SCHOOL

WILLPOWER-INITIATIVE-SUCCESS-EMPATHY-RESPECT

Smoking and Vaping Policy

DATE OF POLICY	October 2026
REVIEW DATE	October 2027
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Smoking at Work Policy

Introduction

Safe Start School is committed to providing a safe, healthy and supportive environment for pupils, staff, visitors and the wider school community.

Smoking and vaping can present risks to health and wellbeing and are not compatible with the school's responsibility to safeguard pupils, promote healthy lifestyles and provide a safe working and learning environment.

This policy applies to smoking, vaping and the use of e-cigarettes or similar devices, regardless of whether they contain nicotine.

Aims of the Policy

This policy aims to:

- maintain a smoke-free and vape-free school environment;
- protect pupils, staff and visitors from exposure to tobacco smoke and vapour;
- promote positive health and wellbeing;
- ensure compliance with relevant health and safety and smoke-free legislation;
- provide clear expectations for pupils, staff, visitors and contractors;
- support individuals who wish to stop smoking or vaping; and
- ensure that smoking and vaping concerns involving pupils are managed appropriately, including consideration of safeguarding and pastoral needs.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- all pupils;
- employees, including temporary and agency staff;
- governors and proprietors;
- volunteers;
- visitors;
- contractors; and
- any other person attending or undertaking activities on behalf of Safe Start School.

Smoke-Free and Vape-Free School

Smoking and vaping are prohibited:

- inside all school buildings;
- anywhere within the school grounds;
- immediately outside the school site where doing so would be visible to pupils or undermine the school's smoke-free approach;
- in school-owned or school-operated vehicles;
- in vehicles being used to transport pupils;
- during educational visits, off-site activities and work undertaken with pupils away from the school premises; and
- at school-organised events where pupils are present.

This includes cigarettes, cigars, pipes, e-cigarettes, vapes and other smoking or vaping products.

Staff

Staff who choose to smoke or vape may only do so during authorised breaks and away from the school premises.

Staff must ensure that:

- they are not smoking or vaping in view of pupils wherever reasonably practicable;
- smoking or vaping does not interfere with their duties or supervision responsibilities;
- cigarettes, tobacco, vapes, e-cigarettes, liquids and associated items are securely stored and inaccessible to pupils;
- they do not supply, purchase or facilitate access to smoking or vaping products for pupils; and
- they maintain appropriate professional standards when representing the school.

Staff should take reasonable steps to minimise strong residual smoke or vape odours before returning to work with pupils.

Pupils

Pupils must not smoke, vape, possess smoking/vaping products or use such products on school premises or during school activities.

Where a pupil is found with a prohibited item, staff will respond in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and any relevant safeguarding procedures.

Any response will take account of the pupil's individual needs, circumstances and SEND where appropriate. Where there are concerns about nicotine dependency, exploitation,

inappropriate supply by adults or peers, or other safeguarding issues, these will be considered and referred to the DSL where necessary.

Parents/carers will normally be informed of incidents involving smoking or vaping.

Visitors and Contractors

Visitors and contractors are expected to comply with this policy.

Anyone smoking or vaping on school premises will be asked to stop. Where necessary, they may be asked to leave the premises.

Staff should not place themselves at risk by confronting an individual who becomes aggressive or threatening.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented effectively and that staff, pupils and visitors understand the school's expectations.

Staff

All staff are responsible for modelling appropriate behaviour, reinforcing the school's expectations and reporting concerns or breaches where appropriate.

DSL

Where smoking or vaping raises a safeguarding concern, including concerns about exploitation, supply, coercion or significant risk-taking behaviour, the matter should be considered under the school's safeguarding procedures.

Governing Body/Proprietor

The Governing Body/Proprietor will provide appropriate oversight and ensure that the school's approach supports its safeguarding, health and safety and wellbeing responsibilities.

9. Breaches of the Policy

Breaches by employees may be addressed through the school's appropriate management or disciplinary procedures.

Breaches by pupils will be managed in accordance with the Behaviour Policy, taking account of individual circumstances and any relevant safeguarding or SEND considerations.

Visitors or contractors who fail to comply may be asked to stop smoking/vaping or leave the premises.

10. Smoking and Vaping Cessation Support

The school encourages staff and pupils who wish to stop smoking or vaping to access appropriate support.

Information and advice are available through NHS stop-smoking services and other appropriate health services. Where appropriate, pupils may also be supported through parents/carers and relevant health or pastoral services.

11. Monitoring and Review

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day implementation of this policy.

Significant or recurring concerns may be reported to the Governing Body/Proprietor as part of the school's safeguarding, behaviour or health and safety oversight arrangements.

The policy will normally be reviewed annually, or sooner where there is a significant change in legislation, statutory guidance or school practice.