Smoke-free and Vape-free Policy 2026-2029

APPROVED AND ADOPTED

Policy Author: Headteacher and Admin Officer
Approved by: FGB
Last Approved: October 2026
Written and implemented: Reviewed policy from May 2024
Review Due Date: October 2029

1.1 New regulations brought a smoking ban into force in England at 6am on 1 July 2007. Almost all enclosed and substantially enclosed public places and workplaces are included, as are public transport and most work vehicles and company cars. Following the introduction of new regulations in 2015, it is now also against the law to smoke in a private vehicle when children are present.

The Health and Safety at work Act 1974 also places a duty on employers to provide a working environment that is 'safe, without risks to health, and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work'.

1.2 Second-hand smoking, breathing in other people's tobacco smoke, has been shown to cause cancers, heart and respiratory disease in non-smokers. It has a negative effect on those people who suffer from conditions such as asthma. There is considerable evidence regarding the impact of smoking behaviours on children

1.3 As smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society, as a school we believe it is our responsibility to promote a no smoking or vaping policy and to give everyone the right to breathe clean air and to avoid the dangers of second-hand smoke. Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking/vaping role models if they are to recognise no smoking or vaping as the norm.

1.4 Hatch Warren Junior School aims to provide a safe working and learning environment for both pupils and staff and to this end the whole school supports a no smoking or vaping policy which reinforces the messages within the health initiatives in the wider community.

1.5 This policy applies to all staff, pupils, contractors and visitors to all our premises.

1.6 This policy applies to cigarettes, cigars, pipes, herbal smoking products, e-cigarettes, vape devices, disposable vapes and any nicotine inhaling products.

2. Aims of the policy

2.1 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.
- To promote a healthy lifestyle by providing excellent role models for all children and adults within the school.
- Equip children with the social skills that enable them to resist the pressure to smoke, either from their peer group, or from society in general.
- To set the example of a health promoting smoke-free environment for our school and 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 non-smokers to breathe in air that is free from tobacco smoke.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Take into account the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.

2.2 This policy has due regard to legislation, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Health Act 2006
- Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
- Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015 • Equality Act 2010

2.3 This policy also has due regard to guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) guidance relating to vaping and smoke-free environments. (Replaces Public Health England)

3. Curriculum

3.1 Pupils will learn about the risks associated with smoking, vaping and nicotine use through the school's PSHE and health education curriculum in an age-appropriate manner.

4. The Smoke-Free Environment

4.1 The following statements apply to all staff, pupils and visitors to the school e.g. parents, visiting suppliers, temporary staff, contractors and governors.

- Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any part of the school site at any time. This includes all school buildings and the outside areas of the school including playgrounds, sports field or car parks.
- Staff, volunteers and visitors accompanying educational visits are expected not to smoke or vape whilst supervising pupils or when representing the school.
- Smoking or vaping at the entrances and exits to the school site or any part of the boundary will be strongly discouraged.
- The relevant signage is displayed around school.

4.2 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.

5. Support for smokers and vapers

5.1 For those who smoke or vape, information about NHS 'Stop Smoking' services and other sources of support are available.

6. Breaches of the Policy

6.1 The day-to-day implementation of this policy is the responsibility of the whole school community and everybody has a duty to respond to breaches of the policy. Any person who smokes on the premises will be asked to extinguish the offending item and/or leave the premises.

6.2 Staff are not entitled to additional smoking or vaping breaks during the working day. Any smoking or vaping must take place off-site during authorised breaks and must not impact on staff punctuality or responsibilities.

6.3 If any members of staff wish to smoke, they must leave the school site. Staff who breach the no smoking or vaping policy will be advised that this could result in disciplinary action in accordance with the school's Disciplinary Procedure and ~~our~~ Staff Conduct Policy.

6.4 Any pupil found smoking, vaping or in possession of smoking or vaping products will have the incident dealt with in accordance with the Behaviour Policy and, where appropriate, safeguarding procedures. Parents/carers would be informed.

7. Monitoring and reviewing

7.1 The policy will be reviewed in line with the school's review cycle to ensure that it continues to meet the aims.