

Smoking, vaping and other drugs: policy

Date: 23.03.24

Smoking and vaping are not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds.

Aims and objectives

We want Sphere Federation schools to be happy and healthy places to learn (St James' CE Primary: happy and healthy place to achieve and believe). This policy is to support this vision. It is intended to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping; to reduce the prevalence of smoking and vaping; and to protect all members of the school community from the harms of second-hand smoke.

Additional objectives of the policy are:

- to ensure that all adults in the school environment are able to act as role models in not smoking or vaping
- to adopt and support interventions that aim to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping amongst pupils, staff, parents/carers and members of the wider school community
- to ensure that this policy is applied when children are taken off site



Who?

This policy applies to staff, parents/carers, pupils, members of the public, contractors or others working/using the school premises and all vehicles used to transport pupils.

What?

This policy covers cigarettes and vapes. The same principles apply to other volatile substances, illegal drugs and psychoactive substances (legal highs).

When?

The policy applies at all times. It applies to all events and activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised (including any events organised for social or fund-raising reasons, such as those related to the PTAs of each school).

Where?

The policy covers all areas of the school, both indoors and outdoors.

Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying pupils or staff on school business. We also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport. This policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions, visits and trips. Staff and accompanying helpers are reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty or looking after students.

This policy applies equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

Staff and visitors who smoke should do so outside of the school premises. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds. Staff should also remove/hide any items that make them identifiable to the school when they smoke (eg lanyard, school sweatshirt).

We respectfully ask parents / carers to make sure they do not smoke / vape near the school gates at the start and end of the day for the reasons set out below.

Why?

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke-free environment. Exposure to second hand smoke (passive smoking) increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. Exposure to role models who smoke also normalises smoking behaviour, which can have a significant negative impact on the delivery of the smoke-free message.

Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of death and illness in England, responsible for over 80,000 deaths per year. It kills half of all long-term users. Two thirds of all new smokers in England are young people under the age of 18. Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, and are more likely to be heavier smokers (Muller, 2007). The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

Smoke-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 includes the use of vapes. While we recognise that vaping can be an aid to quitting smoking, vaping is included in this policy. Vaping is not for children. We want to avoid vaping being seen as acceptable to children and to those who don't currently smoke. Some children cannot tell the difference between smoking and vaping. Children may see an adult vaping and believe this to be a normal or healthy adult activity, thus increasing the chance of addiction in later life. In addition, it avoids confusion for staff who need to be vigilant against anybody smoking on site. For these reasons, adults should ensure vapes are not used or visible when on school property.

The law bans smoking in all indoor public places including schools. This ban has been in place since 01 July 2007. Research suggests the ban has encouraged existing smokers to give up and has also raised awareness about the risks of second-hand smoke, resulting in fewer young people taking up smoking. From 01 February 2011, smoking is banned in cars that carry children under 18 with a possible £50 fixed penalty notice for both the smoker and the driver. This is to protect children from second hand smoke.

How? Responding to incidents related to smoking, vaping or the use of similar substances

The following procedures apply when there is non-compliance with this policy:

staff	pupils	parents, carers and other non-employees
Disciplinary Policy and Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply. In addition, the staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking.	The incident will be regarded as a serious incident in line with our Positive Relationships (Behaviour Management Policy). Additional curriculum support will be put in place.	All staff are authorised to remind non-employees to adhere to the policy, or to leave the premises. Refusal to do so may result in a ban from the school premises.

We will try to provide some assistance for those who smoke by signposting staff, pupils, parents/carers and other non-employees to [local Stop Smoking services](#).