



# Smoking & Vaping Policy

## Polisi Ysmygu

Reviewed:

# Work Together – Play Together – Succeed Together

## *Gweithio, chwarae a llwyddo gyda'n gilydd*

### Whitchurch Primary School

### Policy on Smoking and Vaping

#### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 At Whitchurch Primary School, we believe that smoking is harmful to health, so we strongly discourage our children from smoking. Consequently, the school and the grounds are non-smoking and vaping are not permitted on site.

#### 2 Rationale

- 2.1 Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. Second-hand Smoke – “breathing other people’s tobacco smoke” causes at least 1,000 people to die a year. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children. It also leads to over 50 children being admitted to hospital per day, 80% of smokers take up the habit as teenagers with 450 children starting smoking every day (ASH).

The school under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment. Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment. Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention. Young people need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within the school. It has been shown that the biggest factor affecting youth smoking is prevalence of adult smoking and young people’s exposure to seeing smoking (ASH 2004)

As a Rights Respecting School, we recognise **Article 6 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)** “*You have the right to life and to grow up to be healthy*”.

#### 3 Aims and objectives

- 3.1 We aim to:

- help children know and understand the dangers of smoking, and the harmful effects that smoking can have on their bodies;
- provide children with the knowledge and information necessary for them to make responsible choices in relation to smoking;
- 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;
- provide young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco use and provide appropriate role models.
- 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 schools.
- promote a healthy lifestyle by providing excellent role models for all children and adults within the school.

#### 4 Organisation

- 4.1 The dangers of smoking are addressed in Year 6, in our Health and Wellbeing Curriculum with advice and support from the Health Authority and PCSOs. As well as teaching the children about the effects that smoking has on the body, we engage them in discussions

about the reasons why people start to smoke, and what they themselves should do if other people encourage them to try cigarettes. The children's class teacher leads all such discussions in a sensitive manner. S/he encourages the children to explore the views of other people, and to reflect on their own personal convictions with regard to smoking. We explain that it is illegal for cigarettes to be sold to people under 18 years of age, but our aim is for children to refrain from smoking not only for that reason, but also because they believe that smoking is a wrong lifestyle choice.

- 4.2 The dangers of smoking sometimes arise as an issue in science lessons at Key Stage 2, when children learn about the way substances affect the body. When such an issue arises, class teachers deal with it in context, and answer the children's questions to the best of their ability, taking care to explain that smoking is dangerous, and should be avoided.
- 4.3 This policy applies to pupils, employees, parents, visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the schools premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised.
- 4.4 The smoking and vaping policy will apply to all activities held on school premises including those held during school hours and out of school hours. This includes all social and sporting events, and any meetings organised, which are attended by school employees as part of their work and /or visitors to such meetings/events.
- 4.5 The smoking and Vaping ban will apply to all school owned/hired/leased vehicles. No one will be allowed to smoke inside any school owned/hired leased vehicles.
- 4.6 This policy will apply equally to all future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

## **5 School staff**

- 5.1 We do not allow smoking or vaping on any part of the school site, including the staffroom. If any members of staff do wish to smoke or vape, they must leave the school site.
- 5.2 Employees are asked to refrain from smoking or using vapes in their own vehicles when carrying official passengers on school business.
- 5.3 Should any member of staff be found smoking or using vapes on the school premises in contravention of this policy, we would consider this a serious breach of the terms of employment.

## **6 Pupils**

- 6.1 We do not allow pupils to smoke or use vapes on any part of the school site.
- 6.2 Non-compliance by pupils will be dealt with in agreement of the schools Disciplinary Procedure.

## **7 Monitoring and review**

- 7.1 It is the role of the headteacher to ensure that this policy is fully implemented. Every three years, or earlier if necessary, the governors review this policy as part of their curriculum committee's monitoring of the effectiveness of the school's Health and Wellbeing curriculum.

Further information can be found below:

Appendix 1: <https://ash.org.uk/media-centre/news/press-releases/new-national-vaping-guidance-for-schools-released-by-action-on-smoking-and-health>

Appendix 2: <https://ash.org.uk/uploads/ASH-guidance-for-school-vaping-policies.pdf>

Appendix 3: <https://www.gov.wales/new-advice-schools-about-vaping#:~:text=The%20guidance%20also%20includes%20advice,under%2018%20should%20be%20vaping.>