



St. Monica's Catholic Primary School

Vape and Smoke-free Policy

Status	School need
Date Policy written	Autumn 2018, reviewed June 22 (taking into a/c the Sept 21 WBC review) Reviewed January 2025 (using WBC suggested content)
Date presented to the Finance Committee	28.1.25
Date of next review	Spring 27
Staff contact	Mrs J Pearson
Link Governor	Mrs. A Barnes

School policies linked to this smoke-free policy:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Drug Education Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Drug Related Incident Policy

1.0 Introduction

At St. Monica's our Mission Statement prompts us to 'Aim to be the best we can be' and 'Share and love one another'. It is in this spirit that we take seriously our responsibility to promote a smoke-free environment for everyone coming into contact with our school.

This policy provides guidance for members of the school community on why we are a Smoke-free School. It has been developed with the need to balance the interests of the whole school, the need to protect children and enable all to work and learn in a smoke-free environment.

All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about smoking. Schools play a pivotal role in helping students make such decisions by providing education about the risks and effects of tobacco.

This policy content is inclusive of the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vapes and any other tobacco smoking products.

2. Aim

- To reinforce that our school is a 'Vape and Smoke-Free' school and complies with the national Smokefree legislation.
- This policy has been developed to protect all employees, students and visitors from exposure to second hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006.
- Exposure to second hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other serious illnesses.

3.0 Objectives

The objectives of the policy are:

- To provide a vape and smokefree school environment for everyone to learn, work and visit.
- To provide children and young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco, vaping and its impact on health.
- To provide assistance for those who smoke and vape.
- Reduce smoking and vaping prevalence within young people in Warrington.

4.0 Rationale

Smoking remains an addiction which is largely taken up in childhood, with most smokers starting as teenagers

– ASH (Action on smoking and health).

In November 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care published its Policy Paper – “Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation”, highlighting that:

Tobacco is the single most important entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability and death in this country, responsible for 64,000 deaths in England a year. No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users. The independent review in 2022 found that, if we do not act, nearly half a million more people will die from smoking by 2030.

Across the North West, a survey of 14-17 year olds is undertaken every two years to explore attitudes and behaviour towards drinking, smoking, vaping and knives. The latest **Trading Standards North West Young Person’s survey** in 2023 received a total of 13,981 completed questionnaires, of which 958 (6.9%) were from young people in Warrington.

The area specific report for Warrington found that young people in Warrington are increasingly trying vaping rather than smoking tobacco cigarettes, highlighting:

Smoking

Levels of tobacco smoking amongst young people in Warrington continue to fall. The survey found that:

- 2% of 14 to 17 year olds in Warrington claim to smoke 5 or more cigarettes a day, the lowest level recorded.
- The majority claim to try or start smoking between the ages of 13 and 14.
- They mainly get their cigarettes from friends (aged under 18) or an informal source.

Vaping

The percentage of young people in Warrington claiming to vape regularly has more than doubled since 2020. The survey found that:

- 14% (approaching 1 in 7 young people) claim to vape more than once a week, compared to 6% in 2020, and this behaviour is higher amongst females (16%).
- Increasingly they are trying vapes either before or instead of tobacco cigarettes.
- Curiosity and the flavours are a key factor in tempting young people to vape, and also in what they buy.
- More than 4 in 5 who have tried vaping have friends who vape.

The rationale for a School’s Vape and Smokefree Policy is therefore because:

- Everyone has the right to a smokefree environment.

- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. Nationally, children's exposure to second hand smoke – children 'breathing other peoples' tobacco smoke' causes over 300,000 extra GP appointments due to asthma, respiratory conditions, bacterial meningitis and over 9,500 childhood hospital admissions each year.
- Exposure to second hand smoke has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children.
- This increased illness leads to nursery and school absenteeism affecting education achievement, compounding poverty and continuance of the cycle of deprivation.

Vape and Smoke-free Policy

The Vape and Smoke-free Policy forms part of the school's Health and Safety Policy arrangements. The Health Act 2006 places restrictions on smoking within the workplace. For further details of the law as it applies to England, please refer to www.smokefreeengland.co.uk

Comprehensive Vape and Smoke-free Policies in schools provide a positive role model for children and contribute to the development of a health-promoting school. This policy will help to reinforce rather than contradict the school's PSHE education programme.

The Vape and Smoke-free Policy will include the use of e-cigarettes and other vaping devices, as a smoking behaviour.

5.0 Vape and Smoke-free School Premises

In 2007 Smoke-free laws were introduced to protect people from the harms of second hand smoke in public places, public transport and work vehicles. These laws have proven to be highly effective resulting in an immediate reduction in the number of children being admitted to hospital for asthma. Compliance is also virtually universal. To further protect children, the government extended legislation to cover private vehicles carrying children from October 2015 (Tobacco Plan 2017).

Vaping and smoking will NOT be permitted in any part of the school's premises, including kitchens, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, paths, playgrounds, playing fields etc) where these form part of the school premises. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

There will be NO designated vaping or smoking areas provided within the school premises.

This policy applies to employees, parents and visitors, members of the public, contractors and others working or using the school's premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with staff and pupils who do not comply with the Vape and Smoke-free Status at school.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the vape and smoke-free status.

The Vape and Smoke-free Policy will apply to all activities held in the school including before and after school sessions and any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

6.0 Vehicles

All school owned/hired/leased vehicles will be Vape and Smoke-free and will display mandatory 'no-smoking/no vaping' signage. Staff are not allowed to smoke or vape in their own vehicles, when

carrying passengers on school business. Failure to display no smoking signs can incur a fixed penalty notice on whoever manages or occupies the smoke-free premises or vehicle.

7.0 Assistance for those who smoke

We recognise the importance of being vape and smokefree and therefore adhere to the principle that first, second and third hand smoke is damaging to health. In addition, we also stand by the notion that smoking and vaping is an addictive behaviour. We pledge that we are willing to be very supportive to anyone who wishes to give up smoking by offering stop-smoking information to anyone who is interested through referral to LiveWire's stop smoking service for information .

Staff should be aware of local stop smoking service support is there for staff, families and young people.

LiveWire provides friendly and helpful Stop Smoking support and advice to anyone who lives or works in Warrington, with trained smoking cessation advisors on hand waiting to talk to pupils (secondary school only), staff, parents or carers to answer any questions they may have.

This support can also be accessed via telephone on 0300 003 0818 (leaving a short voicemail to action) or on the Facebook page (@smokefreewarrington) where you can direct message one of our available Smokefree advisors.

Any member of staff, parent or carer can self-refer online via the LiveWire Lifestyles website Stop Smoking @Support to Quit' section. If you have a pupil who wishes to access support, please complete a referral form and send it to the dedicated email account within the form. An advisor will contact the young person as soon as they are available to discuss how best to support them and their preferred method of contact going forward.

LiveWire also provide a face-to-face Drop-In Clinic session at the Living Well Hub situated in the town centre, (Horsemarket Street) each Monday morning from 9:00am-1:00pm (excluding bank holidays). For more information on this please contact us directly on:

0300 003 0818 leaving a short voicemail or email: stopsmoking@livewirewarrington.org

For primary school pupils who require support:

Should it come to our attention that any pupils of the school are smoking we would access support for them via the school nurse (email BCHFT.0to19@nhs.net).

8.0 Education and Publicity

Guidance and Signage

Schools have a legal responsibility to ensure that the required no smoking signs are in place for premises and vehicles. Suitable posters and No Smoking signs will be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a smoke-free working environment. Posters are available to download from the government official guidance relating to the Smoke Free law 2007.

http://smokefreeengland.co.uk/files/a5_sign_sf_premises.pdf

Tobacco education will form part of the RSHE (Relationships, Sex & Health Education) curriculum which will be statutory from September 2020. It is important that the starting point for health and wellbeing education should be a focus on enabling pupils to make well-informed, positive choices for themselves. RSHE teaches the characteristics of good physical health and mental wellbeing, which includes education around drugs, alcohol and tobacco. This covers: (Sc

- The facts about legal and illegal harmful substances and associated risks, including smoking, alcohol use and drug-taking.

Teaching resources can be sourced via the 'Health Promotion Resource centre' (WBC Public Health) catalogue: <http://publichealthresources.warrington.gov.uk/HPAC>

Our school will promote National campaigns; such as No Smoking Day (March) and Stoptober (October).

9.0 Appointments

This school is a Vape and Smoke-free school and this should be made clear within all its appointments procedures, staff handbooks and school prospectus.

10.0 Working with Parents and Governors

The school recognises the importance of consulting with parents and governors to develop/ review the Vape and Smoke-free Policy.

It will communicate the benefits for pupils and staff of having a vape and smoke-free school environment.

Parents and governors will be asked to support this message and adhere to the vape and smoking policy on school premises at all times.

In addition parents and governors can access smoking cessation help (signposted in the policy).

11.0 School Environment

School site management staff should be encouraged to monitor and report evidence of cigarette and vape littering - e.g. where on the school site it is found and the frequency / quantity.

All prohibited items found/seized should not be given back to the pupil or their parents/guardians for further use and will be disposed of in the correct environmentally protective manner.

Safe Disposal - Both single-use and refillable vapes are subject to Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations as they contain a battery. This means they should not be disposed of in general waste or mixed recycling but sent to separate collection facilities, as indicated by the WEEE label:



Improper disposal of vapes and batteries can lead to fires and environmental pollution. Any UK legal devices or paraphernalia should be stored and disposed of in an environmentally and responsible manner. Schools should adopt a clear policy for safely disposing of confiscated vapes. This could involve hiring a specialist vape recycling company to provide a container and a collection service, or ensuring all vapes are recycled at household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) or another vape recycling point, in a timely manner. Please see below links for support:

- [Vapes recycling: An industry briefing for retailers, producers and local authorities \(materialfocus.org.uk\)](http://materialfocus.org.uk)
- [Recycle Your Electricals - Vape Recycle](#)

Illicit Tobacco and Vapes

Illicit tobacco includes counterfeit tobacco e.g. fake brands and products that are illegally imported evading the payment of UK duty. Any cigarette packages or illicit vapes that are found in school, which are not in

regulated packaging will be reported to: [Trading Standards, Warrington](#). The school will also report, if known, where the young person has obtained the illicit tobacco or vape device from.

12.0 Monitoring

The policy will be monitored by management to ensure that it is running effectively. Any problems or queries relating to the policy can be put to management through a staff representative.

Discipline Procedures

*It is illegal to sell cigarettes or nicotine containing vapes to under-18s, but it is not illegal to smoke or vape under-age and punishment should be proportionate. Pupils should not be excluded from school for vaping or smoking, unless it is associated with other disruptive behaviour which justifies this - **ASH guidance for Schools, September 2022.***

The school should highlight discipline procedures for both staff/visitors and young people caught vaping/smoking on the school site.

Examples;

Discussion with pupil

Letter home to inform parent/carers

Detention

Links to support the research:

- [Action on Smoking and Health - ASH](#)
- [LiveWire Stop Smoking](#)
- [NHS Better Health - Stop Smoking](#)
- [Talk To Frank - Vapes](#)
- [Talking to young people about vaping cessation \(youtube.com\)](#)
- [Vaping prevention workshops | Healthy Dialogues](#)

13.0 Health and Well-being

This Vape and Smokefree Schools Policy contributes to Warrington's Tobacco Control Alliance's ambition to prevent people from starting smoking, to create more smokefree environments to de-normalise smoking and to reduce harm from second hand smoke.