



St. Gregory's Catholic High School

No Smoking and Vaping Policy

Monitoring

The implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Deputy Headteacher (Pastoral)

Evaluation

The policy was reviewed by the Director of Finance and SLT on 29th October 2024 prior to the submission of the policy to Governors' Community Committee for scrutiny and recommendation to the Full Governing Board for approval.

Key policy dates:

Ratified by the Full Governing Board: 11th December 2024

Review frequency: Every 2 years

Next policy review commences: Autumn Term 2026

Please Note:

This policy, as a working document, may be subject to changes as appropriate (such as changes in legislation, working practices, and in response to matters arising in school).

Aim

St Gregory's Catholic High School regards itself as a health-promoting and safety conscious organisation. It recognises that its staff acts as role models for pupils in all aspects of school life, including health promotion. In light of the evidence that matches and discarded cigarettes are the cause of many fires, and that second hand smoke and vaping causes damage to health, this policy has been implemented to:

- Create a Smoke-Free environment for all those within the school community.
- Acknowledge the educational role of the organisation in discouraging children and young people from starting to smoke and/or vape; and
- Help smokers to quit.
- Reduce the risk of preventable fires

Legal Framework

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

- Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974
- Health Act, 2006
- Children and Young Persons Protection from Tobacco Act, 1991
- Equality Act, 2010
- Public Health, England (2016) – 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and work places'
- DfE (2023) 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement'

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Health and Safety
- Child Protection and Safeguarding
- Safe Recruitment
- Behaviour for Learning
- Exclusions
- Drug Education
- Emotional Health and Well-being
- Staff Code of Conduct
- Electronic Devices

Rationale and procedures:

Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in our society.

Passive and second-hand smoke smoking – 'breathing other people's tobacco smoke' – is also potentially fatal. It has been shown to cause lung cancer, as well as many other illnesses, in non-smokers. Children are particularly vulnerable to the effects of second-hand smoke, causing 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). Whilst the long-term effect of vaping is unknown, e-cigarettes do contain nicotine which is an addictive chemical and

research suggests that young people who vape also smoke or go onto smoke (American Journal of Public Health 2017).

Everyone has the right to breathe clean air.

St Gregory's Catholic High School under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) has a duty of care to provide a healthy working environment.

The Health Act 2006 requires all indoor workplaces to be smoke free and for smoke free signage to be placed at all entrances.

St Gregory's Catholic High School has a major role to play in health education and prevention.

Children need to receive consistent messages and require non-smoking role models within our school.

Included within the school curriculum, and specifically in the Personal, Social, Health and Economic Programme (Personal Development) will be work covering the issues relating to smoking, passive smoking and vaping. The pupils' image of smoking and vaping will be sought and where necessary challenged.

The peer pressure to smoke and vape will be challenged. All available resources, including Personal Development, visiting speakers will be used to inform pupils of the dangers posed by smoking and vaping.

Procedures

Smoking and vaping will not be permitted in any part of the school premises, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car parks, garden areas, walkway, etc.).

The enforcement of this total no smoking and vaping policy will be the responsibility of all designated responsible persons within the school. The school disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking and vaping ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

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

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises. The no smoking and vaping 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.

Employees should avoid being seen smoking/vaping in public in sight of pupils, parents/carers and visitors in order to reinforce a comprehensive approach.

There will be no designated smoking/vaping areas provided within the school premises.

Pupils will not be permitted to smoke or vape during the school day, either on the premises or outside neighbouring areas. Non-compliance by pupils will be dealt with in agreement with the school Disciplinary Procedures (Behaviour for Learning Policy/Exclusion Policy).

Banned items linked to smoking include lighters/ matches/ cigarettes/ vapes(e-cigarettes)/ fluid/ tobacco/papers etc. brought into school carry a sanction. They are also covered in relation to our searching and confiscation protocols with additional reference to 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' Advice from DfE January 2018.

Vehicles

The no smoking and vaping policy will apply to all school owned/ hired/leased vehicles. No one will be allowed to smoke or vape inside any school owned/hired/leased vehicles. This is required by the Health Act 2016. Employees are asked to refrain from smoking and or vaping in their own vehicles, when used on school business and when carrying passengers.

The above procedures also apply to visits / school trips etc and include teaching and non-teaching staff.

Electronic Cigarettes

The school acknowledges that some employees may wish to make use of electronic cigarettes (E-Cigarettes) in the workplace, particularly as an aid to giving up smoking. E-Cigarettes are battery powered products that release a visible vapour that contains liquid nicotine that is inhaled by the user. Although they fall outside the scope of smoke-free legislation, the school prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in the workplace. The school's rationale for a ban on e-cigarettes is that: Although they do not produce smoke, e-cigarettes produce a vapour that could provide an annoyance or health risk to other employees; some e-cigarette models can, particularly from a distance, look like real cigarettes, making a smoking ban difficult to police, and creating an impression for pupils, staff, parents/carers, contractors, and any other visitor that it is acceptable to smoke. E-cigarettes, vapes, liquids are all banned items as stated in our Behaviour Policy and will be confiscated; a parent/carer will be contacted in order to collect such items. The related sanction will apply to the pupil.

Assistance with smoking cessation

St Gregory's Catholic High School recognise that smoking and vaping is an addictive behaviour. Anyone, including employees, who wishes to give up will be offered support to do so. The school has a trained member of staff who runs a Smoking Cessation Club following the guidelines of NHS which pupils are encouraged to join to ensure all risks and health implications are explained and understood. Information, guidance and support are available from the Emotional Health and well-being Officer, who also refers cases to the Warrington Borough Council Scheme. There are currently six staff (including teaching and non-teaching) trained to support pupils and staff wishing to access cessation support, advice and who signpost to other agencies. Examples of possible agencies to look at are:

Action on Smoking and Health <http://ash.org.uk/category/information-and-resources/smoking-cessation-treatment/>

Smoke free <https://www.nhs.uk/smokefree/help-and-advice/local-support-services-helplines>

Stop Smoking Services (NICE) <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH10>

Each primary and secondary school has a named School Nurse who is supported by their team to promote health and emotional wellbeing in schools and in the community by:

- Being available to address, in confidence, any concerns about a child or young person's health.
- Providing health advice to help children and young people to make positive health choices.
- Assessing children starting primary school after their care is transferred from the Health Visitor.
- Assessing the health of Year 7 pupils before they transfer to high school.
- Offering young people an opportunity to discuss health issues confidentially at school based or community based drop ins.
- Supporting young people who have particular medical needs and providing training for education staff to help manage these needs.
- Developing care plans to support pupils with medical needs including allergy.
- Delivering classroom-based health education.
- Delivering immunisation programmes in primary and secondary schools and in the community.
- Working with and referring to other professionals.
- Working with other agencies to safeguard and protect young people.
- Delivering the National Child Measurement programme (NCMP).

Cigarette Litter

The school caretaker/staff will be encouraged to monitor and record evidence of cigarette litter for example; where on school site, frequency and quantity.

Illicit Tobacco

Illicit tobacco includes counterfeit tobacco i.e. fake brands and products that are illegally imported evading the payment of UK duty. Any cigarette packages that are found in school, which are not in plain packaging will be reported to Warrington Trading Standards (https://www.warrington.gov.uk/info/201127/trading_standards) regarding concerns of illicit tobacco use in school. The school will also report if known, where the young person has got the illicit tobacco from.

Signage

No smoking signs will be displayed at all main entrances to the school building (as required by the Health Act 2006). Suitable posters will also be displayed in school areas to create a positive visual message which supports a non-smoking environment.

Appointments

This is a no smoking school and is made clear within its appointments procedures and staff code of conduct.

Parents and Carers

It will be expected that parents and carers adhere to the No Smoking and Vaping Policy and refrain from smoking on the school grounds.

Parents and carers will be encouraged to support the school in helping to maintain a non-smoking and vaping school site and in educating their sons/daughters in the dangers of smoking. Specific information will be communicated to them via the website, themed day activities, PD programmes.