



**Gosforth Park First School**

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GPFS Smoke Free

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GP-PO-046	02	9/9/2024	Leanne Lamb Claire Wells	Document in line with Healthy Schools Guidance

**1. RATIONALE**



1.1 Smoking kills approximately 64,000 people in the UK each year and second hand smoke (breathing in other people's tobacco smoke) has been shown to cause cancers, heart and respiratory disease in non-smokers. Currently, 4 in 5 smokers start before the age of 20 and smoking from a younger age is linked to being more likely to smoke in later years.

1.2 The Health Related Behaviour questionnaire (Newcastle City Council, 2022) revealed that the percentage of secondary students who are occasional or regular smokers has reduced to 3.5%. Down from 11.7% of secondary school pupils in 2015.

1.3 The percentage of secondary school pupils in Newcastle upon Tyne having ever used an e-cigarette/vaporiser has reduced to 19.2% (Health Related Behaviour Survey, 2022). However this is still 1 in 5 pupils with 12.2% of Year 8 students and higher percentage at 27.1% of Year 10 students reporting such usage.

1.4 Gosforth Park First School is a health promoting environment. A smoke free policy covering the whole school site is a requirement of Newcastle Healthy School Status. Where smoking is permitted on school sites this devalues the PSHE/health education input pupils receive on smoking and provides contradictory messages to them. Schools have an important role in modelling non-smoking as the norm.

1.5 Everyone is entitled to work in a smoke free environment where they are protected from the effects of second hand smoke. From 1 April 2007 the Health Act 2006 has prohibited smoking from virtually all enclosed and substantially enclosed workplaces. This included school buildings. The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to provide a working environment that is 'safe, without risks to health'.

1.6 The smoke free regulations in the Health Act do not currently include the use of electronic cigarettes or devices and it is currently not an offence for minors to use them. However their sale is prohibited to those under the age of 18 years, as are conventional tobacco products. Some disposable vapes on sale are illegal and do not meet UK safety regulations and they can contain high levels of harmful substances.

1.7 The active ingredient in most vapes is nicotine, which when inhaled, is a highly addictive drug. The addictive nature of nicotine means that a user can become dependent on vapes, especially if they use them regularly. The number of children in the UK using vapes has tripled in the last three years. ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

1.8 A new Tobacco and Vapes Bill is set to be introduced which includes a new law to stop children who turn 15 this year or younger from ever legally being sold cigarettes or other tobacco products, alongside measures to crack down on youth vaping and strengthen enforcement of these new laws. This is in addition to a broader package of measures to tackle youth vaping – including banning the sale and supply of disposable vapes under environmental legislation and the new excise duty on vaping products announced in the Spring Budget, 2024. ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))



**2. PURPOSE**

2.1 Gosforth Park First School acknowledges that second-hand tobacco smoke is both a public and work place health hazard and have therefore adopted a smoke free site policy. Further it acknowledges the harm caused by smoking and the importance of positive role modelling to pupils. The policy seeks to:

- Guarantee a healthy working environment and protect the current and future health of employees, pupils and visitors.
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke.
- To comply with the Health Act 2006, Health and Safety legislation, employment law and to raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- To recognise the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.

**3. GUIDELINES**

3.1 Smoking, including the use of electronic cigarettes and vaporisers is not permitted anywhere on the extended school site (buildings and grounds) by any person at any time (including staff, pupils, visitors, parents, contractors and other agencies sharing the site) on the school site. Smoking is not permitted at the school gates or on land immediately outside the school perimeter fence.

3.2 Smoking including the use of electronic cigarettes and vaporisers is not permitted by anyone accompanying pupils on school visits.

3.3 Smoking or vaping is not permitted in school vehicles or any vehicles being used on school business.

3.4 Education about the dangers to health of smoking and vaping is addressed in the PSHE curriculum to reinforce the smoke free site policy.

3.5 This policy applies at all times across the whole school site; including during school events, evening classes, before and after school activities.

**4. IMPLEMENTATION**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Details</b>
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and Head Teacher	Leanne Lamb Headteacher	07821565476
Deputy DSL	James Hindess Tracey Gasper	07545314209
Named Safeguarding Governor (Chair of Governors)	Steve Collins	07880546304
Linked Safeguarding Governor	Craig Heeley	07498417356

4.1 It is the responsibility of every member of staff, volunteer and regular visitor to our school to ensure



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that they carry out the requirements of this policy and, at all times, work in a way that will safeguard and promote the welfare of all of the pupils at this school. This includes the responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can grow and learn.

The Headteacher and governing body are responsible for the implementation and monitoring of this policy.

We will;

- ◆ Publicise the policy to staff, visitors, pupils, parents.
- ◆ Provide adequate signage.
- ◆ Publicise our policy to new staff and new parents.

This policy will be reviewed every three years or sooner if deemed necessary.

The Headteacher will deal with any breaches of policy whether this is done by staff, visitors or pupils. Any breaches of the smoke free site policy will be logged and we will record the action taken to prevent it happening again.

Gosforth Park First School supports all smokers who wish to quit, including parents, staff and pupils. Those seeking such support will be signposted to the Newcastle Stop Smoking Service in Newcastle on 0191 269 1103. They provide free, friendly tailored support to motivated smokers who wish to quit or cut down their smoking. Services are available across the city in a range of community settings and pharmacies.



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**\*\* Briefing note**

Electronic cigarettes and vaporisers:

Electronic cigarettes and vaporisers are battery powered devices designed to deliver nicotine in a toxin free vapour. These devices generally tend to simulate tobacco smoking but do not contain all the other harmful chemicals contained in conventional cigarettes.

They come in different shapes and types. Many are designed and produced to look and feel like traditional cigarettes, whilst others have different shapes and designs, and not all produce vapour.

Unlike conventional cigarettes e-cigarettes/vaporisers do not generate smoke from combustion, instead they generate vapour that contains nicotine. E-cigarettes and vaporisers generally contain nicotine, propylene glycol (used to create the artificial vapour), glycerine, water, and flavourings. The amount of nicotine contained in e-cigarettes and vaporisers is controlled under EU tobacco directives introduced in May 2016.

Some products are currently being marketed as vaporisers or e-shisha (often referred to as shisha pens). There is no meaningful distinction between vaporisers, e-shisha products and e-cigarettes, other than marketing.

Since May 2016 electronic cigarettes have been regulated as medicines through the Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This is helping to “ensure that high quality products can be made available to help support smokers to cut down their smoking and to quit.”

The sale of E-cigarettes to under 18's is prohibited (Children and Families Bill, 2014). Most schools have a smoke-free policy that covers the entire campus. Some workplaces and public places include e-cigarettes and vaporisers in their smoke-free policies to avoid confusion in distinguishing an electronic device from a conventional cigarette.

Implementing the same action in schools will help to avoid confusion among pupils and staff. However it is important to note that such devices do help people to stop or cut down smoking, reducing the substantially the health harms of smoking. There may be some staff or students who are trying to stop smoking using such a device and the school will have to make a decision on whether their use on site will be permitted in such circumstances.

Some concern has been expressed by some experts in the public health field that e-cigarettes and vaporisers may become attractive to young and become a gateway to later uptake of smoking and may also contribute to the re-normalisation of smoking behaviour. This is an area which is being monitored in the public health community. Currently there is no evidence that e-cigarettes and vaporisers are a gateway to conventional cigarette smoking.

Public Health England have published some guidance: Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces: advice to inform evidence-based policy making (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/use-of-e-cigarettes-in-public-places-and-workplaces> ) which will assist workplaces develop their policy in relation to this area. Schools must make their own decision on their policy in regards to e-cigarette or vaporiser (nicotine delivery devices) use on the site.