


# Anti-Smoking and Vaping Policy

## Ellesmere Port Catholic High School



Approved by:	PP Mrs L. Henderson Mrs C Vile	Deputy Headteacher Headteacher 
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# Catholic Social Teaching



**Common Good**



**Care for God's Creation**

**Caring for our planet and ourselves is vitally important. By ensuring student are educated in the dangers of smoking and vaping, we are supporting the common good of the school community and caring for God's creation. This policy is for all, for the health of our school.**

## Introduction

Smoking and vaping is particularly damaging in pupils. Evidence shows that people who start smoking in their youth, particularly between the ages of 11 and 15, are three times more likely to die a premature death than someone who takes up smoking at the age of 20. They are also more likely to be hooked for life. Nicotine, an ingredient of tobacco and vapes, is highly addictive. It takes, on average, about six cigarettes (less than one vape) before nicotine receptors in the brain are switched on, generating a craving for nicotine which may continue for the rest of the person's life. In less than one packet of cigarettes or one single vape, a person's brain can be changed forever from that of a non-smoker to a nicotine addicted smoker.

At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, we take the health of all our pupils and staff very seriously and as such, we seek to:

- Protect our staff, pupils and visitors from the effects of tobacco and vape smoke.
- Provide a healthy, clean, and safe working environment for all employees, pupils, parents, contractors, and other visitors.
- Acknowledge our educational role in discouraging pupils from starting to smoke or vape.
- Support the efforts of pupils and staff to improve their health through the cessation of any type of smoking or vaping and will promote non-smoking through curriculum materials, assemblies and appropriate displays, as well as the use of the School Nurse.
- Build an effective partnership between school, parents and pupils and inform parents/carers about the non-compliance of their children with this policy.
- Challenge the behaviour of those pupils and parents who give low priority to the elimination of smoking or vaping on school premises.
- Comply with anti-smoking legislation, namely Smoke-Free (Premises and Enforcement) Regulations 2006 and that from the 1st July 2007 all workplaces in England must be smoke free, rendering it a criminal offence to smoke on the school premises.

## Aims

1. To enable all pupils and staff to make healthy, informed choices by increasing knowledge and challenging attitudes towards smoking and vaping.
2. To provide a programme of education and accurate information about the health risks associated with smoking and vaping.
3. To seek to minimise the risks and possible legal consequences for pupils and staff from smoking and vaping in prohibited places.

4. To enable pupils and staff to identify sources of appropriate personal support to help with the cessation of smoking/vaping and these support mechanisms are open to them when they are needed.
5. To monitor, as far as possible, pupil and staff involvement in smoking/vaping in order to inform school programmes for prevention.
6. To have clear procedures for dealing with anyone found smoking on the premises or in the case of pupils found to be in possession of smoking or vaping materials, to ensure that such procedures are consistent and clearly understood.
7. To ensure an adequate programme through Personal Development for Personal, Health & Social Education (PSHE), with appropriate resourcing and staff training is in place to help pupils make informed decisions about smoking and vaping.
8. To ensure that pupils, staff, parents, contractors, and any other visitors are informed about the school's policy and procedures relating to smoking and vaping.
9. To ensure that both penalties for smoking or vaping on the school site and support procedures are consistently and fairly applied.
10. To enter into a contract with parents, carer and pupils which clearly identifies the responsibilities of all involved and that this contract is signed by both school and pupils.

## **Policy**

The school is designated a no-smoking or vaping site, and everyone involved with the school community is required to adhere to this Anti-Smoking and Vaping Policy. The following will apply:

### **Pupils**

- Pupils are not allowed to smoke/vape on or near the school site.
- Pupils are not allowed to smoke/vape whilst on a school activity/trip/placement/work experience.
- Pupils must not smoke/vape whilst travelling to or from school.

### **Staff**

- Staff are not allowed to smoke or vape on site or in sight of pupils. This will include visits, school excursions etc., and include both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- This policy will also apply to employees whilst exercising direct responsibility for students on off-site activities, e.g. in the school mini-bus, school fixtures, etc.

### **Parents, Carers, Visitors & Contractors**

- Parents, carers, visitors & contractors are required to adhere to the Anti-Smoking and Vaping Policy and must not smoke or vape within the school grounds.

All staff and pupils are expected to be vigilant in reporting the names of pupils found smoking or vaping, or the names of pupils found with those pupils smoking or vaping and, for relevant staff to ensure that the Anti-Smoking Procedure is applied.

## **Smoking**

Smoking is classed as:

- Being seen smoking (either tobacco or e-cigarette [vaping]) in school, on the school site or outside of the school site in school uniform.
- Being seen with a lit cigarette in their possession.
- Being found to have cigarettes and / or other smoking materials openly in their possession.

- Bringing cigarettes / smoking materials onto the premises.
- Bringing vapes/ e-cigarettes onto the premises.
- Associating with others who have been caught in the act of smoking.

## **E-cigarettes / Vapes**

Electronic cigarettes (vapes) mimic the effects of real cigarettes by producing a vapour that is potentially less harmful than cigarette smoke and free of some of its damaging substances, such as tar. However, experts state that it is not yet known what harm these devices could inflict on pupils' health and their contents could be damaging to their long-term health.

Because they are not regulated, the contents of e-cigarettes can vary. Some have been found to contain toxic chemicals which are also found in tobacco and have been linked to cancer. Moreover, as these devices mimic the effects of real cigarettes, it is often difficult to tell from a distance whether a person is smoking a real cigarette or an e-cigarette (vape). For these reasons, all forms of e-cigarettes are also banned from the Ellesmere Port Catholic High School site. Therefore, this policy also applies to pupils or staff members found smoking any form of e-cigarette (vape).

## **Sanctions**

### **Staff**

Disciplinary procedures may be followed if a member of staff does not comply with this policy. Staff may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

### **Visitors**

Visitors who do not comply with this policy will be asked to leave the premises. Refusal to comply with this request may result in the Police or Local Enforcement Officer being informed.

### **Pupils**

1. If pupils are found to be smoking or vaping on site, they will receive a sanction as soon as possible from the time of transgression. This sanction will be in the form of 1 day in the Inclusion Room for the first offence.
2. A report of the incident will be completed by the relevant member of staff and this will be reported to the Pastoral Team along with any cigarettes, e-cigarettes (vapes), lighters and any other equipment that has been confiscated (this will not be returned to the pupil).
3. The Pastoral Leaders will record the incident on school's information management system (Arbor and CPOMS).
4. Attendance at a 'Smoking or Vape Awareness' session with the School Nurse may be organised by the Pastoral Leader.
5. Parents/carers of the pupil concerned will be notified by phone in the first instance.
6. School Nurse will record attendance at 'Smoking or Vape Awareness' session. Pastoral Leaders should be notified of any non-attendance at 'Smoking or Vape Awareness' session.

## **Continued & Persistent Smoking (additional sanctions)**

1. Further repetition or refusal to comply with the Anti-Smoking and Vaping Policy will result in a Fixed Term Suspension.
2. Parents/carers of the pupil concerned will be notified by phone in the first instance and a letter issued, notifying them of the suspension and breach of the Anti-Smoking and Vaping Policy.
3. A further referral will be made to the School Nurse for smoking cessation, or a referral to VIA may also be made to support the young person.

## **Enforcement**

The school may choose to seek assistance from the Local Enforcement Officer or the Police in pursuing a statutory fixed penalty notice. In extreme cases where the school sanctions appear to be having no effect on certain pupils and their smoking or vaping behaviour, parents may be asked to collect and supervise their child over the periods of free time or when the smoking or vaping is taking place.

## **Support**

The school takes its responsibilities in supporting staff and pupils to maintain their health and wellbeing seriously and the following are some of strategies in place to help with the cessation of smoking.

1. The NHS offers a range of services to help smokers to give up. Visit [www.gosmokefree.co.uk](http://www.gosmokefree.co.uk) or call the NHS Smoking Helpline on 0800 169 0 169 for details. Alternatively you can text 'GIVE UP' and your full postcode to 88088 to find your local NHS Stop Smoking Service.
2. Pupils in school can access the School Nurse for help and advice. A School Health Advisor is also available on Mondays.
3. The school may offer a peer mentor to pupils who feel they would benefit from the support of another young person.
4. Local Pharmacies are supportive of people trying to give up smoking some provide a smoking cessation service free of charge to pupils below the age of 16.
5. Referrals to VIA can be made which supports young people in dealing with any addiction they may have.

