

Moorside Primary School



Anti-drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Substances (Including Vaping) Policy

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

PURPOSE, VISION & VALUES



Our Purpose

Moorside Primary is a school at the heart of our diverse community in the West End of Newcastle.
We pride ourselves in belonging to a caring school community where everyone is welcome.
We strive to deliver an outstanding education for all our children.
We help everyone to become caring and active citizens.
We encourage everyone to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Our Vision

We want everyone in our school to work together to make us as good as any school can be.
We want to create new opportunities for everyone to succeed.
We want to create a culture which broadens all of our horizons.
We want everyone to be able to tackle the challenges we will face in an ever-changing world.
We want all of our children to effectively engage with each other and with our community.

Our Values

We all believe...

Our local community deserves a school they can be proud of.
We are a caring community where everyone is welcome.
We all value, respect and support each other.
Our community has the right to be safe and healthy.
Our children should have the chance to enjoy and be enthused by their time in our school.

We all agree...

Everyone will always try their best and take pride in all that they do.
Everyone will demonstrate good manners at all times.
Everyone will respect each other and show consideration.
Everyone will respect and care for our environment and resources.
Everyone will celebrate each other's successes and achievements.

Child-friendly expectations are to be used in class and around school.

They are:

Learn and let others learn.
Celebrate what makes us special and respect our diversity.
Look after each other and our environment.
Solve problems calmly and cooperatively.



Rationale

At Moorside Primary School, we are committed to promoting the health, safety and wellbeing of all children. We recognise that children may be exposed to information, attitudes and behaviours relating to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping and other substances through the media, their communities, family environments and peer interactions. It is therefore important that children develop accurate knowledge, appropriate vocabulary and the confidence to make safe, informed and healthy choices.

This policy supports our safeguarding responsibilities by ensuring a consistent and proactive approach to education, prevention and response. Through an age-appropriate curriculum, children learn about the potential risks associated with drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vaping and other harmful substances, as well as the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles and seeking support when needed.

The policy also provides clear guidance for staff, parents/carers and governors on the management of substance-related incidents, ensuring that the welfare of children remains paramount. By fostering a safe, informed and supportive school environment, we aim to equip children with the knowledge, skills and resilience needed to make positive decisions and protect their physical and emotional wellbeing both now and in the future.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All staff, children, parents/carers, visitors, contractors, and volunteers.
- All areas of the school premises, including buildings, grounds, car parks, and vehicles used for school business.
- All school-related activities, including off-site trips and events.

Smoking and Vaping Restrictions

- **Smoking and vaping (including the use or charging of e-cigarettes or vape devices)** are strictly prohibited on all school premises and during any school-related activities.
- This applies at all times, including outside of school hours.
- Senior members of staff will address any parent/carers observed smoking or vaping on the yard at drop off and collection times.

School Site Non-Smoking and Non-Vaping Policy

Moorside Primary School is a non-smoking and non-vaping site. This applies to all children, staff, visitors, and contractors at all times, including during school events and out-of-hours activities on school premises.

The use or possession of tobacco, vapes, e-cigarettes, or any nicotine delivery systems is strictly prohibited anywhere on the school site.

This policy aligns with the Children and Families Act 2014 and current public health guidance on protecting young people from the harms of smoking and vaping.

Intent

- To educate children on the physical, emotional, and social effects of alcohol, drugs, tobacco, and vaping.
- To encourage responsible decision-making and promote personal development and resilience.

- To ensure staff are trained and equipped to deliver effective education and respond appropriately to incidents.
- To involve parents/carers, and the wider community in prevention and support.

Curriculum Delivery

- Drug, alcohol, tobacco, and vaping education is embedded within the PSHE and Creative Curriculum, following the statutory guidance for Health Education (DfE 2021) and the 2025 Relationships Education framework.
- Content is age-appropriate, culturally sensitive, and revisited progressively to build knowledge and skills.
- Themes and topics include legal and illegal substances, health risks, mental health links, peer pressure resistance, and where to seek help.
- Vaping education includes the risks of vaping to young people and the role of vapes in adult smoking cessation.
- Cross-curricular links are made with science, history, PE, and other subjects to reinforce learning.

Implementation

- Planning is coordinated at long, medium, and short-term levels with monitoring by the Head Teacher/SLT and the PSHE lead.
- Teaching methods include discrete lessons, discussions, projects, outside agency visits, and peer support systems.
- Assessment is ongoing and informs future planning to meet children needs.

Addressing Vaping through the Curriculum

Vaping is taught as part of the school's wider health education and substance education programme. Through age-appropriate learning, children develop an understanding of the risks associated with vaping, the importance of healthy lifestyles, and the skills needed to make informed decisions, resist negative influences and safeguard their wellbeing. The curriculum promotes factual understanding while encouraging children to develop confidence, resilience and responsibility in relation to their health and personal choices. We aim to teach children the importance of looking after their physical and mental wellbeing, and understanding the potential risks associated with substances that can harm the body.

As children progress through the school, they learn:

- What vaping is and how e-cigarettes differ from medicines and other products.
- That vaping products are intended for adults and should never be used by children.
- The potential health risks associated with vaping, including nicotine addiction.
- How advertising, social media and peer influence can affect decision-making.
- Strategies for resisting pressure and making safe, informed choices.
- How to seek help, advice and support if they have concerns about vaping or other substances.

Teaching is delivered through discussions, scenarios, assemblies, external visitors where appropriate, and cross-curricular learning opportunities. Lessons focus on developing children's knowledge, critical thinking skills, resilience and confidence so that they can make positive choices and respond safely to situations they may encounter.

Teaching about vaping is linked to learning about:

- Physical health and the effects of substances on the body.
- Healthy lifestyle choices and maintaining wellbeing.
- Addiction and how some substances, including nicotine, can create dependence.
- Mental wellbeing, self-esteem and managing peer influence.
- Assessing risks and making informed decisions.
- Keeping safe and knowing where to seek help and support.

- The influence of media, advertising and social networks on health-related behaviours.

By addressing vaping within Health Education, children develop the knowledge, skills and resilience needed to make positive choices, resist pressure from others, and understand the importance of protecting their long-term health and wellbeing.

Smoking or Vaping in School Incidents

If a child is found with a vape or cigarettes, we will confiscate the item, log the incident, and contact parents/carers immediately. Following investigation, we will apply our behaviour policy and determine the relevant sanctions. It is important to note that if necessary, safeguarding or police procedures may be triggered.

Immediate Actions:

- Confiscation: Safely take the vaping device/cigarettes and any related liquids, pods, lighters from the child.
- Parental contact: Inform parents/carers about the safety rule violation and discuss the next steps.
- Recording: We will log the incident in line with our behaviour policy and health tracking records.

Policy and Disciplinary Steps

- Enforce rules: We will apply standard school sanctions for prohibited or age-restricted items.
- Assess severity: Determine if the infraction is a simple first-time use or part of a wider behavioral issue.
- Safeguarding check: Evaluate if the child is being pressured or exploited to supply vapes/cigarettes to other peers.

Health and Support Measures

- Provide education: Offer guidance on the health risks of nicotine and the dangers of unregulated chemical additives.
- Support cessation: Guide the child towards counselling or smoking/vaping cessation resources instead of relying purely on punitive measures.

Handling Drug-Related Incidents

- All staff follow safeguarding procedures and report concerns to the Head Teacher who is also the Safeguarding lead or Deputy in her absence.
- Procedures for discovery of illegal drugs or paraphernalia include securing the item, notifying authorities, and logging the incident.
- Dealing or selling substances on site results in immediate reporting to police and disciplinary action.
- The school works closely with local police regarding known drug activity near the school.

Medicines in School

A separate policy governs the management of prescribed medicines.

Out of School Visits

Staff carry school mobile phones and follow the same reporting procedures for incidents.

Visitors and Contractors

All visitors, including contractors and delivery personnel, are expected to comply with this policy. Clear signage is displayed around the school to communicate our smoke-free status.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

In line with our Equal Opportunities Policy, this anti-smoking policy is implemented fairly and consistently. We are committed to ensuring that all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, regardless of background or personal circumstances. This policy ensures equal access to education for all children, including those with SEND and those with an additional language need, with adaptations and support as required.

Support for Smokers

We understand that quitting smoking can be challenging. Staff and parents who wish to stop smoking are encouraged to seek support through:

- **NHS Smokefree Services** – Visit www.nhs.uk/smokefree for free resources and support.

Support Resources and Links

Children are supported through school-based initiatives and external agencies.

Useful resources for children and families include:

- Childline / www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/you-your-body/drugs-alcohol-smoking/drugs
- NHS Better Health / www.nhs.uk/better-health/drink-less
- Talk to Frank / www.talktofrank.com
- www.turning-point.co.uk
- www.wearewithyou.org.uk
- www.al-anonuk.org.uk/alateen

Other Professionals

As a school we actively engage with specialist staff such as NHS specialists, school nurse, Police, Community Police and Clennell's Safeguarding. The delivery of workshops are planned throughout the academic year to ensure children are educated and signposted to current legislation, guidance and support.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required, to ensure it remains effective and reflects current legislation and guidance. Feedback from staff, children, and parents/carers will be considered as part of the review process.