CHALK RIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Adopted by Resources Committee 21st October 2026 Next review – October 2028
Headteacher: Miss Sue Jackson

Smoking and Vaping Policy

Introduction

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

Second hand smoke ('breathing other people's tobacco smoke') is dangerous, especially for children. People who breathe in second hand smoke regularly are more likely to get the same diseases as smokers, including lung cancer and heart disease (NHS).

The school, under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974), has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment.

Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment.

Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention.

Most people start smoking and become addicted to nicotine when they are still children. Those whose parents or siblings smoke are around three times more likely to smoke than children living in non-smoking households. Children who start smoking at the youngest ages are more likely to smoke heavily and find it harder to give up. These smokers are at the greatest risk of developing smoking related diseases.

Smoking will NOT be permitted (this includes e-cigarettes or vaping) on any part of the school premises or during school activities. This aligns with UK law banning sales of nicotine vapes to under 18s.

The enforcement of this smoking policy will be the responsibility of all designated responsible persons within the school. The school's disciplinary procedure will apply for dealing with employees who breach the smoking ban at work. Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation.

Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to leave the premises.

The smoking policy will apply to all activities held on school premises including those held during school hours and out of school hours. This includes all social and sporting events, 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 in public in sight of children, parents and visitors in order to enforce a comprehensive approach.

Non-compliance by pupils will be dealt with in agreement of the schools Relationship and Positive

There will be no designated smoking or vaping area provided within the school premises.
It is important to us, that our policy and approach to smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) should reflect changing social attitudes, and actively reflect and support our goals for effective and lasting drugs education.

In developing our school's policy on smoking, we have sought to:

- Build on our commitment to community well-being.
- To provide young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco use and provide appropriate role models.
- Reflect LA policy.
- Meet DfE guidelines.
- Comply with the law on smoking in public places.

Aims of the Policy

The policy seeks to:

- Create a smoke free environment.
- Guarantee a healthy working environment and protect the current and future health of all employees, school members and visitors.
- Guarantee the right of non-smokers to breathe in air free from tobacco smoke.
- To comply with Health and Safety Legislation and Employment Law.
- Raise awareness of the dangers associated with exposure to tobacco smoke.
- Take account of the needs of those who smoke and to support those who wish to stop.

Restrictions on Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes

In accordance with law on smoking in public places, Chalk Ridge Primary School will not allow smoking or use of e-cigarettes (vaping) in any part of the building.

It is the policy of Chalk Ridge Primary School, that smoking or vaping will not be allowed anywhere on the school premises, including the playing fields.

Employees are asked to refrain from smoking in their own vehicles when on school business, and when carrying passengers.

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

The school will also not permit smoking or vaping at any off-site activities, or during educational and other visits.

The above applies to everyone involved with the school community in any way:

- employees
- pupils
- volunteers
- governors
- visitors
- outside contractors working on-site
- anyone we let the building and grounds to

As a school, we believe that everyone connected with us has a responsibility to be actively involved in the implementation of our no-smoking policy, and to assist in taking all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure its full implementation.

Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

It is the responsibility of the Headteacher to implement the school No Smoking and Vaping Policy and to ensure that all staff are aware of the policy and how to deal with any reported incidents. The Head teacher reports to the governing body about the No Smoking and Vaping Policy and its effectiveness on request. The Head teacher ensures that all children, parents and visitors know that smoking or vaping is not allowed in school.

Staff

All staff take the issue of smoking seriously. Staff members are expected to inform visitors of the No Smoking and Vaping Policy and will inform the person of the rule, ask them to stop or leave where appropriate and report the incident to the Headteacher. However, they are not expected to enter into any confrontation, which may put their personal safety at risk and report it to the Headteacher.

Governing Body

The Governing Body support the Headteacher in all attempts to ban smoking or vaping within our school grounds. This policy statement makes it very clear that the governing body does not allow smoking to take place in our school.

Children

The children are required to learn of the health risks associated with smoking and to understand that smoking or vaping is not allowed within our school.

Help with smoking Cessation

The school will support employees in school wishing to give up smoking by advertising and promoting NHS Stop Smoking Services.

Where practicable, requests from employees to attend smoking cessation programmes during working hours will be supported.

Disciplinary Action

Any persons who smoke on the premises will be asked to extinguish their cigarette, stop using their e-cigarette and/or leave the premises. Staff and pupils that breach the No Smoking and Vaping Policy will be disciplined following the appropriate policies.

Monitoring and review

The Headteacher, who reports to governors about the effectiveness of this policy on request, monitors this policy.