

Compass Smokefree Policy	
Updated	May 2024
Status	Non-Statutory Policy Delegated to the Headteacher Updated every 3 years
Review	May 2027

At Compass School, we are committed to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all.

Our approach to managing and responding to incidents of smoking is rooted in proactive prevention, clear expectations, and supportive interventions.

For the purpose of the policy, the word smoking refers to the use of the following prohibited items:

- Cigarettes
- Tobacco including cigarette papers
- Lighters and matches
- Electronic cigarettes
- Vapes

Our primary intent is to prevent incidents of vaping through education, awareness, and the establishment of clear expectations regarding prohibited items behaviours. By fostering a culture of respect for school policy, we aim to deter pupils from engaging in smoking on school premises.

Additionally, we recognise the importance of collaboration with parents, guardians, and external agencies to ensure a coordinated and holistic approach to addressing smoking-related incidents. Through ongoing communication and partnership, we strive to foster a shared commitment to promoting pupils' health and well-being.

Ultimately, our intent is to create a school environment where pupils feel empowered to make healthy choices, respect school rules, and thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. By proactively managing and responding to incidents of smoking, we uphold our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of our school community and nurture a culture of respect, responsibility, and resilience

Through this policy, we aim to:

- Create a smoke-free environment for all those within the school community, including staff, pupils, visitors, parents, etc.
- Clarify the use of all prohibited items on and around the school premises.
- Outline the agreed responses to incidents of the use of prohibited items at Compass School
- Provide a range of resources for pupils, parents and staff to access

**We take a zero-tolerance approach to managing incidents of the use of the prohibited items on our school site**

**Legal framework**

This policy has due regard to all relevant legislation and statutory guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991
- Health Act 2006
- Equality Act 2010
- Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations 2015
- Public Health England (2016) 'Use of e-cigarettes in public places and workplaces'
- DfE (2023) 'Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy

## Roles and responsibilities

### The Headteacher will:

- Be responsible for the overall implementation of this policy.
- Ensure that all staff act in accordance with this policy.
- Implement and approve ways to teach pupils about the risks associated with smoking.
- Be responsible for determining and implementing disciplinary measures for those who do not follow this policy.

### The Management Committee will:

- Hold the headteacher accountable for the implementation of this policy.
- Review any incidents associated with smoking annually and the schools' actions in line with this policy.

### Pupils and staff will:

- Act in accordance with this policy at all times.
- Engage in the school's anti-smoking curriculum, events and activities.
- Report incidents of the use of the listed prohibited items in and around the school premises immediately.
- Share and signpost pupils and families to information on our website <https://www.compass-school.co.uk/page/?title=Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=16>

## Response to incidents of smoking on the school premises

In the event of an incident, our response is guided by a graduated approach that balances accountability with support. We prioritise the safety and well-being of all individuals involved while addressing the underlying factors contributing to the behaviour.

Whilst our approach focuses on prevention and support, we will also take immediate action should pupils be seen or use prohibited items on the school site as follows:

Behaviour	Actions	
Prohibited item seen	Phone call home to parent	Items confiscated and either collected by parents or destroyed
Prohibited item seen and used on the school premises	1 day suspension Post suspension meeting	Items confiscated and either collected by parents or destroyed
Incidents of malicious activation of the fire alarm	1 day suspension Post suspension meeting	Items confiscated and either collected by parents or destroyed
Persistent use of prohibited item on the school premises	Fixed term suspension	Items confiscated and either collected by parents or destroyed Referrals to external support including Police, Fire and Substance misuse Risk assessment review

### Resources for pupils, parents and staff:

- [Vapes | FRANK \(talktofrank.com\)](#)
- <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/vaping-to-quit-smoking/young-people-and-vaping/#:~:text=Vaping%20is%20not%20for%20children,vaping%20products%20in%20the%20UK.>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/exercise-guidelines/physical-activity-guidelines-children-and-young-people/#:~:text=Children%20and%20young%20people%20aged%205%20to%2018%20should%3A,movement%20skills%2C%20muscles%20and%20bones>
- <https://www.hydratationforhealth.com/en/hydration-science/hydration-lab/water-intake-and-hydration-physiology-during-childhood/#i1-body-water-content>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-child-dental-health/health-matters-child-dental-health>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/activities/>
- <https://www.kumon.co.uk/blog/staying-hydrated-has-a-number-of-benefits-for-your-child/>
- <https://www.bda.uk.com/resource/energy-drinks-and-young-people.html>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>
- <https://www.headspace.com/mindfulness/activities-for-kids>
- <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/e-cigarettes.html>
- <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/feelings-behaviour/safety-wellbeing/im-worried-about-my-child-vaping/>
- <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/empowering-parents-discuss-vaping-young-people>

## Appendix 1

### **Raising health concerns regarding vaping and its impact on young people**

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Headteacher of Compass School, it is my responsibility to ensure the health and well-being of our pupils. Today, I write to you to address a growing concern that affects not only our school but also the wider community- the issue of vaping and its impact on young people.

Vaping, the use of electronic cigarettes or similar devices to inhale and exhale aerosolised substances, has become increasingly prevalent among teenagers. While it may be tempting to dismiss vaping as a harmless activity, it is crucial for us to recognise the potential dangers it poses to the physical and mental health of our pupils'.

Research has shown that the use of e-cigarettes can have severe consequences on adolescent development. The chemicals present in vaping products, such as nicotine and various flavourings, can negatively affect brain development, impair cognitive function and contribute to addiction. Additionally, the long-term effects of vaping are still being studied, and early evidence suggests potential respiratory and cardiovascular risks.

It is disheartening to witness the impact of vaping on the academic and personal lives of our pupils'. Pupils who vape often experience decreased concentration, reduced motivation, and a decline in academic performance. Furthermore, the social and emotional consequences, including peer pressure, isolation and potential conflict, can have a lasting impact on their overall well-being.

To address this pressing issue, we have implemented several preventative measures within our school community. We have strengthened our health education curriculum to provide accurate information about the risks and consequences of vaping. Our pastoral team are available to provide support and guidance to pupils who may be struggling with addiction or facing peer pressure. Resources for supporting discussions with your child can be found here: <https://www.compass-school.co.uk/page/?title=Health+and+Wellbeing&pid=16>

We firmly believe that addressing this concern requires a collaborative effort between the school and parents/carers. I kindly request your support in engaging in open honest conversations with your children about the dangers of vaping. Encourage them to make informed choices regarding their health and well-being.

Additionally, I encourage you to be vigilant and attentive to signs of vaping or related paraphernalia. Familiarise yourself with the appearance of vaping devices, as they often resemble common everyday items, making detection more challenging. By working together, we can create a safe and healthy environment for our pupils.

We are committed to maintaining a zero-tolerance policy on vaping within the school premises, and any pupils found in possession of vaping devices or engaging in vaping-related activities could face action in accordance with our school policies.

Let us join hands to protect the health and future of our young people. Together, we can empower our pupils to make positive choices and lead healthy lives.

Thank you for your cooperation and ongoing support in our shared mission.

Yours sincerely

Debbie McKenzie  
Headteacher