

Community Pre-schools Smoking and Vaping Policy

Community pre-schools play a vital role in shaping the health, wellbeing, and development of young children. As children are particularly vulnerable to the harmful effects of tobacco smoke and vaping aerosols, it is critical for Community Pre-school settings to implement strict smoking and vaping policies. A comprehensive smoking and vaping policy not only protect children and staff from the dangers of second-hand smoke and e-cigarette vapour, but also reinforces positive health values within the community. This document outlines a robust smoking and vaping policy tailored for Community Pre-schools settings, detailing its purpose, scope, procedures, communication strategies, and enforcement measures.

Purpose of the Policy

- To safeguard children, staff, families, and visitors from the health risks associated with smoking and vaping.
- To always provide an unequivocally smoke-free and vape-free environment, both indoors and on any surrounding outdoor premises owned or used by the pre-school.
- To set a positive example for children, promoting lifelong healthy behaviours and attitudes toward tobacco and nicotine use.
- To comply with all relevant national and local legislation regarding tobacco, vaping, and smoke-free zones in educational settings.

This policy applies to:

- All Managers and staff members, including full-time, part-time, temporary, and substitute personnel.
- Parents, carers, family members, and all visitors to the pre-school premises.
- Any contractors, volunteers, or outside agencies working with or within the pre-school.
- All indoor and outdoor areas of the pre-school, including playgrounds, car parks, entrances, and any vehicles owned or operated by the pre-school.
- Any school-sponsored events, trips, or activities, whether held on or off the pre-school premises.

Definitions

- **Smoking:** The act of inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, pipes, and waterpipes (hookahs).
- **Vaping:** The use of e-cigarettes or other electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS), including devices that heat a liquid (with or without nicotine) to produce an aerosol.
- **Pre-school premises:** All buildings, grounds, vehicles, and other facilities owned, leased, or used by the community pre-school during operational hours or for pre-school-related activities.

Policy Statement

Community Pre-schools is committed to providing a totally smoke-free and vape-free environment for all children, staff, families, and visitors. Smoking and vaping are strictly always prohibited on all pre-school premises, without exception.

Procedures

Indoor and Outdoor Areas

- Smoking and vaping are not permitted inside any building or enclosed space belonging to or used by the community pre-school, including main halls, offices, toilets, kitchens, resources rooms, and storage areas.
- Smoking and vaping are not permitted in outdoor areas such as playgrounds, gardens, car parks, waiting areas, or within the vicinity of entrances and exits.

Pre-school Events and Outings

- All off-site activities, including field trips, outings, and sporting events organised by the pre-school, are subject to the same no-smoking and no-vaping policy.
- Staff members are not permitted to smoke or vape while supervising children, regardless of location.
- Parents and carers accompanying trips must be informed of and comply with the policy.

Vehicles

- Smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited in any vehicle owned, leased, or used by the pre-school, whether children are present or not.
- Personal vehicles should not be used for smoking or vaping while on pre-school property or while transporting children for school-related purposes.

Responsibilities of the Management

- Ensure that all staff, parents, carers, and visitors are aware of the smoking and vaping policy.
- Display clear, prominent signage throughout the premises indicating the smoke-free and vape-free status.
- Provide training and guidance to staff to support policy enforcement and address any violations appropriately.
- Regularly review and update the policy in line with current legislation and public health guidance.

Responsibilities of Staff

- Maintain a smoke-free and vape-free environment by adhering to and always enforcing the policy.
- Act as positive role models for children by refraining from smoking or vaping during working hours or at any pre-school events.
- Politely remind colleagues, parents, and visitors of the policy when necessary.
- Report any breaches of the policy to management promptly.

Responsibilities of Parents, Carers, and Visitors

- Always respect and comply with the pre-school's smoking and vaping policy.
- Refrain from smoking or vaping on any part of the pre-school premises or during pre-school events.
- Support the school's commitment to health by avoiding exposing children to second-hand smoke or vapour, including outside of pre-school hours.

Communication of Policy

- The policy will be included within staff handbooks, parent welcome packs, and posted on the pre-school's website.
- Signage stating "This is a Smoke-Free and Vape-Free Zone" will be displayed at all entrances and strategic points around the site.
- The policy will be promoted during enrolment, at meetings with parents, and via newsletters or digital communications.
- Reminders will be issued periodically to reinforce awareness and compliance.

Enforcement

- All staff members are responsible for enforcing the smoking and vaping policy in a courteous and professional manner.
- Breaches by staff will be dealt with in accordance with the pre-school's disciplinary procedures.
- Breaches by parents, carers, or visitors may result in being asked to leave the premises.

Monitoring and Review

- The Managers of Community Pre-schools will review this policy annually, or more frequently if changes in law or guidance occur.
- Feedback from staff, parents, and children will be sought to ensure the policy remains effective and relevant.

Legal Framework

- This policy aligns with national and local legislation regarding smoke-free educational environments, including the Health Act 2006 (UK) and related regulations concerning e-cigarettes and vaping in public places.
- The policy also considers guidance from public health authorities and early years' professional bodies.