



Smoke Free Policy

Approved by:

Full Governing Body

Date: April 2026

Next review due by:

April 2028

Policy Statement

West Moors Middle School is committed to protecting the health, safety and welfare of all members of the school community. Smoking and vaping produce harmful second-hand smoke and normalise tobacco use, which can have serious health consequences. Therefore, this policy aims to create a completely smoke-free and vape-free environment for pupils, staff, parents/carers and visitors at all times, throughout the entire school premises and grounds.

Introduction

On 1 July 2007, The Smoke-free Regulations (from the Health Act) 2006 came into effect. This new legislation makes provision for the prohibition of smoking in certain premises, places and vehicles. Section 2 states:

'that premises must be smoke free if they are used as a place of work including vehicles.'

Section 2(2) of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 places a duty on employers to:

'...provide and maintain a safe working environment which is, so far as is reasonably practicable, safe, without risks to health and adequate as regards facilities and arrangements for their welfare at work.'

Secondhand smoke breathing other people's tobacco smoke and side stream smoke has now been shown to cause lung cancer and heart disease in non- smokers, as well as other significant medical conditions.

The law also states that all enclosed public places and workplaces will become smoke free. This means:

- it will be an offence to smoke in smoke free premises or vehicles
- it will be an offence for those who control or manage smoke free premises or vehicles to permit others to smoke in the premises or vehicles
- it will be an offence for people who occupy or manage smoke free premises or vehicles to not display the required no-smoking signs at the premises or within the vehicle

Further detail on the Health Act 2006 and the regulations associated with it is available on the smokefree England website - <http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk/>

General Principles and Scope

The aim of this policy is to:

- Protect the health of staff and children
- Protect the health of visitors, contractors and users and/or clients of our services or products
- Inform staff and managers of their responsibilities in respect of the policy
- Support smokers to help them cope with increased restrictions on their smoking during the working day
- Promote the culture of a smoke free organisation

This policy applies to:

- All staff (permanent, part-time, supply/agency staff)
- Pupils
- Parents, carers and visitors

- Contractors and volunteers
- Anyone on the school premises or grounds at any time

Smoking and vaping are **not permitted** in any area of the school, including buildings, outdoor spaces, car parks, entrances and vehicles on school business.

Staff are only permitted to smoke whilst off duty and are only permitted to smoke away from the school and whilst not on school property.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy:

- *Smoking* includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes or any other tobacco product
 - *Vaping* includes e-cigarettes, vape pens and similar devices
- Both smoking and vaping are prohibited at all times on school premises

Responsibilities

- All members of the school community are expected to comply with this policy and encourage others to do the same
- Staff have a duty to challenge breaches of this policy and offer support or signpost cessation resources for those who wish to quit
- Visitors who refuse to comply will be asked to leave the premises

Enforcement

- Anyone found smoking or vaping on school grounds will be reminded of the policy
- Persistent or serious breaches by staff may lead to disciplinary action
- Pupils found in breach will be dealt with under the school's behaviour policy, and parents/carers will be informed

All staff have a role to play in enforcing the policy and are required to deal with any observed or reported breaches. If managers or staff feel apprehensive about their own safety in regard to addressing any breach they should seek management support.

In the event of a breach of the policy by a visitor or staff member of other organisations, they should be asked to extinguish all smoking materials and be informed of the availability of external smoking areas. If they continue to smoke the matter should be referred to the appropriate manager. In the event that staff of other organisations continue to breach the policy, the appropriate organisation should be advised in writing of the school's policy requirements.

Support for Smoking Cessation

The local smoke stop administrator is 0800 0076653 or <http://dorsetsmokestop.co.uk>

The NHS smoking helpline number is 0800 169 0169. Alternatively, please visit their website <http://smokefree.nhs.uk/>

Occupational Health can be contacted for information on smoking and its effects on health and would be able to signpost staff to external agencies if required. They can be contacted by telephone on 01305 224094 or contacted through email - occupationalhealth@dorsetcc.gov.uk

Nicotine inhalers

These are used as part of nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) and are recognised by the NHS, typically prescribed by GPs or Pharmacists. Nicotine inhalers are not covered by this policy as they do not provide vapor or anything that looks like smoke; they are not designed to look like cigarettes.

Nicotine inhalers may be used by staff as a smoking cessation aid **but only in designated private areas** away from pupils and other staff.

- Nicotine inhalers must not be used in classrooms, communal areas, or anywhere accessible to students.
- Staff using NRT should follow instructions for safe use and disposal.

Review

The policy will be regularly reviewed for its effectiveness in line with the school's commitment to continuous improvement and the promotion of a smoke free environment to improve the health and wellbeing of staff, service users and visitors.