

TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL SMOKE AND VAPE FREE

Reviewed: Jan 2025
(Tibshelf Policy)



Why do we need a smoke and vape free policy?

At Tibshelf Community School we value the health and welfare of all who form our community as a key priority for all involved with its management, at whatever level.

This policy refers to smoking as the use of both cigarettes and E-cigarettes (battery powered devices designed to replicate smoking behaviour without the use of tobacco. They turn nicotine, flavour and other chemicals into a vapour that is inhaled by the user. The exhaled vapour can be seen, and some products also have a light at the tip which illuminates when the user inhales).

It is important that our policy and approach to smoking should actively reflect and support our goals for effective and lasting drug education. Therefore, this policy promotes practices within the school to reinforce our vision, and to remove or discourage practices that negate them.

Smoking has been proved detrimental to health, and secondhand smoking (breathing in other people's tobacco smoke) has also been shown to cause cancers, heart and respiratory disease in non-smokers.

We recognise vaping may be present among our young people, their parents/carers, and staff members. We are therefore committed to providing a supportive role for individuals to access support while simultaneously employing a fair response to incidents of vaping. We believe our students, parents/carers and staff should feel confident in reporting any breaches to this policy and be assured that all incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

Our Smoke and Vape Free School Policy:

- Promotes a culture of support and empowerment to help students prevent starting to vape and to encourage students to stop vaping.
- It has been developed in consultation with students and from feedback from staff, parents/ carers, Governors and other partners.
- It recognises and values the importance of delivering evidenced-based vaping education.
- Promotes staff training and development.
- Identifies and promotes support for students who are vaping including referral to the Public Health Nursing Team and CGL.

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

- build on our commitment to community well-being
- reinforce our drug education aims
- reflect LA policy
- meet DfES guidelines
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 which, places a duty on employers to provide a working environment that is: *Safe, without risks to health*

What is the policy?

It is the policy of Tibshelf Community School that smoking will not be allowed at any school function or anywhere on school premises. This includes:

- all school buildings
- all school grounds (including the school playing fields)
- smoking in a vehicle parked anywhere on the school grounds
- all off-site activities
- all educational and other visits
- all outside lettings



The policy applies to EVERYONE involved with the school community in any way:

- employees
- students
- voluntary helpers
- governors
- visitors
- outside contractors working onsite
- anyone attending an outside letting

The school will actively discourage smoking at entrances and exits.

How we will implement the policy

As a school we believe that everyone connected with us has a responsibility to be actively involved in the implementation and enforcement of our smoking policy, and to assist in taking all necessary and appropriate steps to ensure its full implementation and enforcement. Refer to staff pay and conditions and the school behaviour policy for disciplinary action.

As part of that strategy, we will:

- a) ensure that it is regularly made known to all it concerns, including staff, students, parents/carers, voluntary helpers and hirers
- b) offer all support to anyone in the school community who is seeking to stop smoking
- c) keep a regular check on the school premises to ensure that they are clear of any smoking related litter
- d) support the reasoning behind the no-smoking policy through our drug education scheme of work and communications with our school community

If a student is found vaping, the vape will be confiscated as a prohibited item. The school behaviour policy defines prohibited items. Details of the process for confiscation can be found there. As a prohibited item, vapes will be destroyed/ passed to the police for destruction. Under no circumstances will the vape be returned to the child.

If a vape is found, parents will be contacted, and all decisions will be recorded and dated.

The student will be offered support for their vaping and if necessary, referred to Derbyshire Public Health Nurses or to CGL specialist services. If students present with disruptive behaviour the school will respond in line with the school behaviour policy. There is evidence to suggest exclusion in relation to students vaping is not effective, and therefore other means of support and intervention will be explored.

The school keeps records of all reports of vaping. The information is stored on the school's

recording system (My Concern). These records are used to identify trends and inform the school drug and alcohol education programme. Information from these records is discussed regularly at staff meetings to ensure that all staff are kept up-to-date and are alert to any ongoing concerns.

Monitoring and Review

This policy, and its implementation will be regularly evaluated by the Headteacher and will be formally reviewed as part of the policy review process.

