

# Bedford High School

A specialist Business and Enterprise College

Work Hard, Be Respectful, Take Responsibility



## Smoking and Vaping Policy

<b>School Address</b>	Manchester Road Leigh WN7 2LU
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### Document control

Reviewer	Claire Taylor
Electronic copies of this plan are available from	FROG VLN
Hard copies of this plan are available from	HR Manager

## **PURPOSE and AIM**

This policy has been developed to protect all staff, students, parents and visitors from exposure to second-hand smoke and to assist compliance with the Health Act 2006.

Medical evidence suggests that smoking and vaping (and passive smoking) is associated with conditions such as respiratory diseases, heart disease and lung cancer. Bedford High School has an obligation to educate students about these risks; to discourage students from smoking and vaping; to help any who are addicted and wish to stop; and to uphold the law. Smoke free legislation in England forms part of the Health Act 2006 and The Children and Families Act 2014.

We endeavour to do this through:

- Health education
- Disciplinary restrictions and sanctions
- Pastoral support
- Ensuring that Bedford High School is a non-smoking/non-vaping environment.

For the purposes of this policy, smoking includes all use of legal tobacco products, herbal substitutes and vaping or e-cigarettes.

All members of the school community have the right to work and learn in a smoke free environment.

## **POLICY**

The school is designated a no-smoking site and everyone involved with the school community is required to adhere to this Anti-Smoking Policy. The following will apply:

### **Students**

- Students are not allowed to smoke on or near the school site.
- Students are not allowed to smoke whilst on a school activity/trip/placement/work experience.
- Students must not smoke whilst travelling to or from school.

### **Staff**

- Staff are not allowed to smoke on site or in sight of students. This will include visits, school excursions etc, and include both teaching and non-teaching staff.
- This policy will also apply to employees whilst exercising direct responsibility for students on off-site activities, e.g. in the school mini-bus, school fixtures etc.

### **Parents, Carers, Guardians, Visitors, Members of the Public and Contractors**

- Parents, carers, guardians, visitors, members of the public and contractors or others working/using the school premises and all vehicles used to transport students are

required to adhere to the Anti-Smoking Policy and must not smoke within the school grounds or vehicles.

## **SMOKING**

Smoking is classed as:

- Being seen smoking.
- Being seen with a lit cigarette in their possession.
- Being found to have cigarettes and / or other smoking materials openly in their possession.
- Bringing cigarettes / smoking materials onto the premises.
- Associating with others who have been caught in the act of smoking.

Appropriate 'no-smoking' signs will be clearly displayed at the entrance to and within the premises, and in all smoke free vehicles.

**Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school's premises and grounds including:**

- **The entrance areas to the school (the school gates).**
- **On land adjacent to the school building (e.g., car parks, garden areas, walkways, playgrounds, playing fields etc).**

This policy will apply equally to future premises at the construction stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

Staff and visitors who smoke will need to do so away from the school premises. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the school buildings or grounds. Staff should also remove any badges/uniform that makes them identifiable to the school when they smoke or vape.

The policy applies to all events/activities held in the school including before and after school sessions, any meetings organised which are attended by school employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Smoking is not permitted in any school owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on school business. Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for student transport.

This policy applies when students are taken off site on school excursions/visits/trips. Staff and accompanying helpers will be reminded that smoking is not permitted when on duty/looking after students.

It is illegal to smoke in a car (or other vehicle) with anyone under 18.

Employees are not permitted to smoke in the view of students. Employees who do smoke will be asked to ensure they cannot be seen smoking by students (even if it is off the school grounds).

### **E-CIGARETTES (VAPING)**

Electronic cigarettes mimic the effects of real cigarettes by producing a vapour that is potentially less harmful than cigarette smoke and free of some of its damaging substances, such as tar. However, experts state that it is not yet known what harm these devices could inflict on students' health and their contents could be damaging to their long-term health.

Because they are not regulated, the contents of e-cigarettes can vary. Some have been found to contain toxic chemicals which are also found in tobacco and have been linked to cancer. Moreover, as these devices mimic the effects of real cigarettes, it is often difficult to tell from a distance whether a person is smoking a real cigarette or an e-cigarette. For these reasons, all forms of e-cigarettes are also banned from the School site. Therefore, this policy also applies to students or staff members found smoking any form of e-cigarette.

### **THE LAW**

Although our smoking ban around the school gates is voluntary, by law smoking is banned in all indoor public places including schools. This ban has been in place since 2007, and research suggests this ban has encouraged existing smokers to give up and has also raised awareness about the risks of second-hand smoke, resulting in fewer young people taking up smoking.

**Smoking is also banned in cars that carry children under 18. Both the smoker and the driver could face a £50 fixed penalty notice if caught smoking. This is to protect children from second hand smoke.**

For more information visit: [www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-in-vehicles](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/smoking-in-vehicles)

### **NON-COMPLIANCE**

Local disciplinary procedures will be followed if staff or students do not comply with this policy. Those who do not comply with the smoke free law may also be liable to a fixed penalty fine and possible criminal prosecution.

## **RESPONDING TO SMOKING RELATED INCIDENTS**

The following procedures will apply when there is non-compliance with the smoke free policy:

**Staff:** The Schools Disciplinary Procedure will be followed for members of staff who do not comply with the school's smoke free policy. The staff member will be offered support to help them quit smoking.

**Non-staff members/school visitors:** Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy. Smokers will be provided with the following details on where to seek support in quitting:

## **HELP TO STOP SMOKING**

The NHS offers a range of free services to help smokers give up. Visit

<https://www.gosmokefree.co.uk/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/ready-to-quit-smoking/find-your-local-stop-smoking-service/>

Wigan offer a service to help you stop smoking, information is available:

<https://bewellwigan.org/lifestyle/health-and-wellbeing-support/stop-smoking/>

<https://www.wigan.gov.uk/News/Articles/2024/October/Stop-smoking-service.aspx>

<https://makesmokinghistory.co.uk/how-to-quit/local-services/wigan/>