



# **Dowson Primary Academy**

## **SMOKE FREE SCHOOL POLICY**

**June 2024**

**Review Cycle: 3 year cycle**



**Ashley, M**



Dowson Primary Academy is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment.

We recognise that children and young people, staff and visitors have the right to breathe Smokefree air in and around the school. We acknowledge that exposure to second-hand smoke, also known as passive smoking, increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses. We know that smoking and vaping are habits that can be influenced by experiences during childhood and that is why we are committed to creating a Smokefree environment and developing children and young people's knowledge, attitudes and skills in positive decision making around smoking and vaping.

### **Aims**

- Protect the right of children and young people, staff, parents and visitors to not be exposed to second-hand smoke.
- Improve the health of children and young people, teachers and support staff.
- Educate young people on the harms associated with smoking and vaping.
- Provide encouragement and support to smokers who wish to give up smoking or vaping.
- Reduce smoking/vaping litter around school and the immediate area.
- Be a healthy role model within the local community.

### **Objectives**

- We will provide a Smokefree environment.
- We will ensure that tobacco and vaping education is part of the PSHE curriculum.
- We will adopt and support interventions to prevent the uptake of smoking and vaping amongst children and young people, staff, parents/guardians and members of the wider community.
- We will promote Be Well Tameside to adults who need support to quit smoking.
- We will ensure that all staff promote healthy lifestyles with a positive attitude.
- We will ensure staff have the knowledge and understanding of policies, procedures and agreed practice to support the implementation of the Smokefree policy.
- We will ensure that this policy is applied when children/young people are taken off site.

### **Rationale**

- All members of the community have the right to work and learn in a Smokefree environment.
- Exposure to second-hand smoke increases the risk of lung cancer, heart disease and other illnesses.
- Exposure to role models who smoke/vape, normalises smoking/vaping behaviour, this can have a significant negative impact on the Smokefree message.
- Smoking is the biggest cause of preventable death in Greater Manchester. 4,500 people die from smoking in Greater Manchester every year - that's 13 people a day.
- Two thirds of smokers start before the age of 18.
- 40% start smoking regularly before the age of 16.
- Those who start smoking before the age of 16 are twice as likely to continue to smoke compared to those who begin later in life, they are more likely to be heavier smokers.
- The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.



- A quarter of 11 to 15-year-olds have tried vaping and nearly 1 in 10 (9%) do it frequently, according to statistics published in October 2024.
- A Smokefree space provides positive health promotion for children and young people, contributing to the development of children and young people for life.

### **Providing a Smokefree Environment (Procedure)**

This policy applies to students, staff, parents/carers, members of the public, contractors or others working / using the premises or vehicles and all vehicles used to transport students.

Smoking/vaping is not permitted in any part of the premises and grounds including the school gates, car parks, footpaths, 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/vape will need to do so outside of the premises. There are no designated smoking areas provided within the building or grounds.

The policy applies to all events / activities held on the premises, any meetings organised which are attended by employees as part of their work and/or visitors to such meetings/events.

Suitable posters, displays and signage will be displayed in areas to create a positive visual message which supports a Smokefree environment.

Smoking is not permitted in any owned/hired/leased vehicles, as well as private vehicles when used for carrying students or staff on business. Please note: this is a statutory requirement.

Schools also have a duty to reinforce the smoking legislation on buses used for pupil transport.

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

We also ask that parents/carers do not smoke on pavements near school when they are in view of the children either from the playground or classrooms or whilst they are coming to and leaving from school.

### **Smoking prevention activities (Procedure)**

Students are not permitted to smoke any tobacco products when in uniform or when representing in any capacity.

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

Tobacco education is part of the PSHE curriculum (including the health effects, legal, economic and social aspects of tobacco use) which may be delivered across the curriculum.

The school supports tobacco education through the transition phase from primary to secondary school.



### Responding to smoking related incidents

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

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

**Non-staff members/ visitors:** Staff are authorised to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the policy.

### Assistance for those who smoke

Be Well Tameside is a free service to all residents and people who work in Tameside which offers free specialist advice and support on how to quit smoking. Be Well Tameside offers:

- 1-2-1 appointments
- Regular contact and support to help you achieve your goals
- Practical tips
- Information about local groups in your area
- Help to access other services locally, such as mental health, debt, housing, volunteering and employment.

Be Well Tameside can help staff, parents/carers and any other adults or young people who would like help to quit smoking. Call Be Well Tameside on 0161 716 2000, or email [bewelltameside@nhs.net](mailto:bewelltameside@nhs.net) for **FREE** support and advice to quit smoking.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

The policy will be reviewed and developed in consultation with the community. It will be widely publicised (staff induction, staff appointment contracts, handbook, website, notice boards, prospectus, promoted) and will be included in contracts for those hiring the use of the premises.

The policy will be monitored by the Principal to ensure compliance and its successful implementation.

The policy will be reviewed every 3 years and ratified by Enquire Learning Trust.

Date of next review: June 2027

### Other Related Policies /Guidance

This policy is linked to/consistent with:

- Relationships and Health Education Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour and Discipline Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Equality Policy
- Parent/Carer Code of Conduct



## Template Parent Letter

Dear parent/guardian,

Our school has a smoke free school and gates policy.

This policy prohibits smoking throughout all our school grounds, outside and around the school gates, on our sports fields, car parks and footpaths at all times. This policy will apply to all school events and activities before and after school, and will also apply when students are taken off site for school trips/ external events.

Please find attached a copy of our policy. This policy can also be found on our website.

This policy provides a strong message to our students, parents and staff that is consistent and reflects our education programme. Smoking is the largest preventable cause of death in the UK and kills 460 people each year in Tameside.

There is no safe level of exposure to second-hand smoke and second-hand smoke can have immediate health effects such as respiratory (breathing) problems, irritated eyes, headaches, coughs, sore throats and sickness, as well as long term health problem's such as increased risk of lung cancer and heart disease. Children's exposure to people smoking around them 'normalises' the behaviour of smoking, which can increase the likelihood of them copying. We want to de-normalise smoking to prevent children from starting smoking.

Children who live with smokers are 3 to 4 times more likely to smoke than children who live with non-smokers. Every hour in Greater Manchester another child starts to smoke, that adds up to a classroom of new smokers every day.

The earlier children become regular smokers, the greater their risk of developing life-threatening conditions, such as lung cancer or heart disease if they continue smoking into adulthood.

Having a smoke free environment provides a positive message to all, which contributes to our commitment of ensuring the wellbeing of children and young people both during and after school.

We are committed to improving the health of all our staff and students, as well as that of other members of our community. We also recognise the important role that teachers, parents and other adults have in influencing the attitudes and smoking behaviour of children and young people.

Please give your support in maintaining Dowson Primary Academy as a Smokefree community and environment.

If you, a loved one, family, friend or colleague would like support to stop smoking, please Call Be Well Tameside on 0161 716 2000, or email [bewelltameside@nhs.net](mailto:bewelltameside@nhs.net) for FREE support and advice to quit smoking.

Yours sincerely,



**Dowson Primary Academy**