



Vape and Smokefree Policy

Version 1.1

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Owner: R Wardle

Review Date and Summary of Changes

Date of Review	Summary of changes

Anti-bullying Policy

1. Introduction

As part of the statutory duty to promote students' physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing schools have a clear role to play in tobacco control as part of their pastoral responsibilities.

All children and young people need to be able to make safe, healthy and responsible decisions about smoking and/or vaping. Schools play a pivotal role in helping pupils make such decisions by providing education about the risks and effects of tobacco, vaping and the illicit products associated with both.

This policy has been developed to protect children and enable all members of the school community to work and learn in a vape and smoke-free environment. It is therefore inclusive of the use of cigarettes, e-cigarettes/vapes and any other tobacco smoking products.

2. Aims

The aim of this Policy is to:

1. Reinforce that Great Sankey High School is a 'Vape and Smoke-free' site and complies with national smoke-free legislation.
2. Protect all employees, pupils and visitors from exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) and to assist compliance with the Health Act, 2006.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

- Provide a vape and smoke free school environment for everyone to learn, work and visit.
- Support Great Sankey High School to provide children and young people with a consistent message regarding tobacco, vaping and its impact on health.
- Provide support and assistance to those who smoke or vape.
- Reduce smoking and vaping prevalence within children and young people across Warrington.

4. Rationale

Smoking remains an addiction which is largely taken up in childhood, with most smokers starting as teenagers – ASH (Action on smoking and health).

In November 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care published its Policy Paper – "Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation," highlighting that:

"Tobacco is the single most important entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability and death in this country, responsible for 64,000 deaths in England a year. No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users. The independent review of 2022 found that, if we do not act, nearly half a million more people will die from smoking by 2030."

Across the North West, a survey of 14-17 year olds is undertaken every two years to explore attitudes and behaviour towards drinking, smoking, vaping and knives. The latest Trading Standards North West Young Person's survey in 2023 received a total of 13,981 completed questionnaires, of which 958 (6.9%) were from young people in Warrington.

The specific report for Warrington found that young people in Warrington are increasingly trying vaping rather than smoking tobacco cigarettes, highlighting:

Smoking

Levels of tobacco smoking amongst young people in Warrington continue to fall. The survey found that:

- 2% of 14- to 17-year-olds in Warrington claim to smoke 5 or more cigarettes a day, the lowest level recorded.
- The majority claim to try or start smoking between the ages of 13 and 14.
- They mainly get their cigarettes from friends (aged under 18) or an informal source.

Vaping

The percentage of young people in Warrington claiming to vape regularly has more than doubled since 2020. The survey found that:

- 14% (approaching 1 in 7 young people) claim vape more than once a week, compared to 6% in 2020, and this behaviour is higher amongst females (16%).
- Increasingly they are trying vapes either before or instead of tobacco cigarettes.
- Curiosity and the flavours are a key factor in tempting young people to vape, and in what they buy.
- More than 4 in 5 who have tried vaping have friends who vape.

The rationale for Great Sankey High School's Vape and Smoke-free Policy is therefore because:

- Everyone has the right to a smoke-free environment.
- Smoking is the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. Nationally, children's exposure to second hand smoke – children 'breathing other peoples' tobacco smoke' causes over 300,000 extra GP appointments due to asthma, respiratory conditions, bacterial meningitis and over 9,500 childhood hospital admissions each year.
- Exposure to second hand smoke has been shown to cause lung cancer, heart disease and cause the onset of asthma, chest and ear infections and cot death in children.
- This increased illness leads to nursery and school absenteeism affecting education achievement, compounding poverty and continuance of the cycle of deprivation.

5. The Role of the School

As part of the statutory duty to promote pupils' physical, mental health and wellbeing, schools have a clear role to play in managing vaping, smoking and tobacco products, as part of their pastoral responsibilities

Schools also have a statutory duty to deliver health education on drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The role schools have in managing vapes and smoking falls broadly into two categories:

1. Incorporating vaping and smoking prevention into the whole school's approach to health and wellbeing. This includes PSHE programmes and the wider curriculum, school policies, ethos and environment, and partnerships with parents and the local community
2. Managing behaviour related to vapes, vaping, smoking and tobacco products. Types of behaviour schools may need to tackle in association with a vape and smoke free school include:
 - a. A child vaping/smoking/using tobacco in school or on school property
 - b. A report of a child vaping/smoking/using tobacco in the local community, and identifiable as a member of the Great Sankey High School community
 - c. A child selling vapes, cigarettes or other tobacco products to pupils or peers
 - d. A child in the possession of vapes, cigarettes or other items associated with tobacco or smoking whilst at school
 - e. Incidents related to vapes/cigarettes and coercion.

Great Sankey High School is a smoke and vape free school and as such smoking and possession of vapes/e-cigarettes, cigarettes, cigars, tobacco or any other associated item is not permitted on the entire premises.

6. Vape and smoke-free school premises

In 2007, smokefree laws were introduced to protect people from the harms of tobacco smoke in public places, public transport and work vehicles. To further protect children, the government extended legislation to cover private vehicles carrying children from October 2015.

Vaping or smoking will therefore NOT be permitted in any part of Great Sankey High School's premises, including kitchens, toilets, within the entrance area to the school or on land adjacent to the school building (car park, garden areas, walkway, playgrounds, playing fields etc) where this forms part of the school premises. This policy will apply equally to future premises at the design stage of any new building and refurbishment or relocation project.

There will be NO designated vaping or smoking areas provided within the school premises. This is also extended to include snus or similar tobacco based products.

This policy applies to employees, students, parents, visitors and members of the public, as well as contractors and others working in or using the school's premises or vehicles. This policy will be clearly advertised and visitors to the school will be informed of it.

The school's disciplinary and behaviour procedures will apply for dealing with staff and students who do not comply with the Vape and Smokefree status at Great Sankey High School.

Staff are authorized to ask non-employees who breach the policy to adhere to the school's vape and smokefree status.

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

7. Vehicles

All school owned/hired/leased vehicles will be Vape and Smokefree and will display mandatory 'no smoking/no vaping' signage. Staff are not allowed to smoke or vape in their own vehicles when carrying passengers on school business.

8. Assistance for those who smoke or under-age vape

As a school community, Great Sankey High School recognises the importance of being vape and smokefree and adhere to the principle that first, second and third hand smoke is damaging to health.

We also recognise that smoking and vaping is a nicotine addictive behaviour. Great Sankey High School therefore commits that we will support anyone from the school community who wishes to give up smoking through referral to LiveWire's stop smoking service for information alongside pharmacotherapy support where eligible and age appropriate.

LiveWire provides friendly and helpful Stop Smoking support and advice to anyone who

lives or works in Warrington, with trained smoking cessation advisors on hand waiting to talk to pupils (secondary school only), staff, parents or carers to answer any questions they may have.

This support can also be accessed via telephone on 0300 003 0818 (leaving a short voicemail to action) or on the Facebook page (@smokefreewarrington) where you can direct message one of their Smokefree advisors.

Any member of staff, parent or carer can self-refer online via the LiveWire Lifestyles website Stop Smoking 'Support to Quit' section. Great Sankey High School will support any student who wishes to access support by completing the referral form and sending to the dedicated email account. The advisor will then be in contact with the young person as soon as they are available to discuss how best to support them.

LiveWire also provide a face-to-face Drop-In clinic session at the Living Well Hub situated in the town centre, (Horsemarket Street) each Monday morning between 9am and 11am (excluding Bank Holidays). For more information they can be contacted directly on:

0300 003 0818 or email stopsmoking@livewirewarrington.org

For pupils in primary school they should contact the school's dedicated school nurse on BCHFT.0to19@nhs.net

9. Appointments

Great Sankey High School is a Vape and Smokefree school and this will be made clear within all its appointment procedures, staff handbooks and school website. The policy will be available on the school website.

10. Working with parents/carers and governors

Great Sankey High School recognises the importance of working with parents/carers and governors. The benefits of a vape and smoke-free school environment will be widely and continually communicated and promoted. Parents/Carers and governors will be asked to support this message and always adhere to the policy on school premises.

11. School environment

Great Sankey High School's site and maintenance staff are encouraged to monitor and report evidence of cigarette and vape littering e.g. where it is found on the school site and the frequency/quantity.

All the main school student toilets in Great Sankey High School have been fitted with a vape detector/sensor. This provides immediate alert to senior staff and pastoral teams in real time. The first available person will then check the time and CCTV to identify possible students. The students will then be collected by the year team and a search conducted as outlined in our school's behaviour policy. Year teams will follow the appropriate sanctions which may include suspension and/or isolation. School is only required to prove beyond reasonable doubt. Additional support is also to be offered and any search will be conducted with student consent and ensure parents/carers are informed as outlined in the relevant policies for search and confiscation.

All prohibited items found/seized will not be given back to the student or their parents/guardians for further use. They will be disposed of in the correct environmentally protective manner.

Signage

Appropriate 'No smoking/vaping' signs are displayed at all the entrances and reception to the school premises. Further signage is displayed around school in areas such as the toilets. There is also additional posters to promote smoking/vaping cessation and support available

Safe disposal

Both single-use and refillable vapes are subject to Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) regulations as they contain a battery. This means they should not be disposed of waste or mixed recycling in general but sent to separate collection facilities, as indicated by the WEEE label:



Improper disposal of vapes and batteries can lead to fires and environmental pollution. Any UK legal devices or paraphernalia should be stored and disposed of in an environmentally friendly and responsible manner.

Illicit tobacco and vapes

Illicit tobacco includes counterfeit tobacco eg fake brands and products that are illegally imported evading the payment of UK duty.

All vapes must comply with the requirements of the Tobacco and Related Products Regulations and be labelled in accordance with the regulations for hazardous substances. The key requirements are listed below.

- Nicotine-containing vapes must not: - have a nicotine strength of more than 20mg/ml or 2% - contain more than 2ml of nicotine-containing liquid
- The packaging (box) of a nicotine-containing vape must be labelled with:
 - o Nicotine strength (e.g., 20mg/ml) - Volume of nicotine-containing liquid in the product (e.g., 2ml)
 - Stating the number of puffs is not sufficient on its own, but if any vape declares more than 1000 puffs, then it will contain more than 2ml of nicotine
 - Name, address and telephone number of a GB based responsible person (manufacturer or importer).
 - Health warning, which must be this exact wording:
 - Ingredients list
 - Hazard symbol and associated signal word,
 - Tactile warning, to alert blind and partially sighted users to the above dangers. This is in the form of a raised triangle – run your hand over the box to find it. "THIS PRODUCT CONTAINS NICOTINE WHICH IS A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCE". This warning must appear on the front and back of the box and cover at least 30% of the area of each of those surfaces.

Any cigarette packages or illicit vapes that are found in school, which are not regulated

packaging will be reported to: <https://www.warrington.gov.uk/tradingstandards> The school will also report, if known, where the young person has obtained the illicit tobacco or vape device from.

12. Research

Links to support the research:

<https://ash.org.uk/>

<https://livewirewarrington.co.uk/lifestyles/stop-smoking/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/quit-smoking/>

<https://www.talktofrank.com/drug/vapes>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2Fw89dsvsM>

<https://healthydialogues.co.uk/offering/kickthecloud/>

13. Health and Wellbeing

This Vape and Smokefree Schools Policy contributes to Warrington's Tobacco Control Alliance's ambition to prevent people from starting smoking, to create more smokefree environments to de-normalise smoking and to reduce harm from secondhand smoke.

14. Relevant School Policies

Great Sankey High School's and Omega Multi Academy Trust's:

- Behaviour Policy,
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Search and confiscation
- Health and Safety Policy

can be located here:

[Policies and Reports | Great Sankey High School](#) and [Policies | Omega Multi-Academy Trust](#)