

**SMOKING
AND
ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES
POLICY**

Ramsden Hall Academy

Last review date	March 2026	Review period	2 yearly
Next review date	March 2028	Owner	Antony Clements

1. Aim

The health risks from smoking and vaping are well documented, and therefore our academy will create a smoke-free and vape-free atmosphere for all our pupils and staff. The Government has introduced comprehensive legislation banning smoking in public places and, more recently, the Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024 creating a 'smokefree generation'. This academy has a clear responsibility to promote the health of the children and young people in our care, and we ask our staff to promote the benefits of non-smoking and non-vaping lifestyles. This policy covers all tobacco products, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes), vaping devices, and related paraphernalia.

2. Objectives

- To provide a smoke-free and vape-free school environment for everyone
- To provide young people with consistent messages regarding tobacco, vaping, and drug use
- To ensure staff act as appropriate role models
- To comply with current legislation including the Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024
- To protect the health and wellbeing of our school community

3. Rationale

- **Smoking:** Smoking remains the single most preventable cause of premature death and ill health in the UK. According to ASH (Action on Smoking and Health, 2024), smoking causes approximately 78,000 deaths per year in the UK
- **Second-hand smoke:** Exposure to second-hand smoke causes serious health conditions including lung cancer, heart disease, asthma, and respiratory infections in children. It is estimated that second-hand smoke causes over 1,000 deaths annually in non-smokers
- **Youth smoking:** While youth smoking rates have declined, approximately 6% of 15-year-olds in England are regular smokers (NHS Digital, 2024). Most adult smokers began smoking before age 18
- **Vaping concerns:** Youth vaping has increased significantly, with current data showing rising rates among secondary school pupils. While vaping is considered less harmful than smoking for adult smokers trying to quit, it is not risk-free and is not appropriate for children and young people

- **Legal duties:** Under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, the school has a duty of care to provide a healthy work environment
- **Smokefree generation:** The Tobacco and Vapes Bill 2024 progressively raises the age of sale for tobacco products, meaning anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never legally be able to purchase tobacco
- **Educational role:** Schools have a major role to play in health education and prevention. Young people need consistent messages and non-smoking, non-vaping role models

4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All students
- All staff (teaching and non-teaching)
- Governors and trustees
- Parents and carers
- Visitors
- Contractors
- Anyone using school premises or vehicles

The policy applies to:

- All areas within school boundaries
- All school buildings
- All school-owned, hired, or leased vehicles
- All school activities, including before and after school activities, residential trips, and off-site educational visits
- All meetings and events held on school premises

5. Smoking and Vaping Ban

5.1 Total Ban

Ramsden Hall Academy is an entirely smoke-free and vape-free environment.

Smoking and vaping are not permitted:

- On school grounds
- In any part of school buildings

- In school vehicles
- At school-related activities off-site
- Within sight of the school entrance or boundaries

5.2 Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited on school premises:

- Cigarettes and tobacco products
- Electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes)
- Vaping devices and vape pens
- E-liquids and vaping cartridges
- Lighters and matches (unless required for specific educational purposes under staff supervision)
- Any smoking or vaping paraphernalia

5.3 Designated Smoking Areas

There are **no** designated smoking or vaping areas within the school boundaries. This policy aligns with the National Healthy Schools Programme and current public health guidance.

6. Students

6.1 Education and Prevention

Students will be educated about the dangers and consequences of smoking and vaping through:

- The Life Skills/PSHE curriculum
- Science lessons
- Tutor time activities
- Assembly programmes
- Display materials in tutor groups and residential houses showing anti-smoking and anti-vaping information

6.2 Searches and Confiscation

In line with DfE guidance on 'Searching, Screening and Confiscation' (2024):

- Senior Leadership Team (SLT) members may conduct searches at arrival time and

throughout the school day where there are reasonable grounds to suspect a student is in possession of prohibited items

- Searches will be conducted in accordance with the school's Behaviour Policy and with appropriate safeguarding considerations
- At least two members of staff will be present during any search
- Searches will be conducted by a staff member of the same sex as the student, with another staff member present as a witness
- Students may be asked to empty pockets, bags, and lockers
- If a student refuses to be searched, parents/carers will be contacted immediately and the student may be required to remain in a supervised area until a parent/carer arrives or alternative arrangements are made
- Access to school grounds may be restricted for health and safety reasons if a student refuses to comply with reasonable requests, until a meeting with parents/carers has occurred

6.3 Confiscation Procedures

- Any smoking or vaping materials found will be confiscated immediately
- Confiscated items will be logged and stored securely
- Parents/carers will be informed on the same day
- Confiscated items will not be returned to students
- Parents/carers may collect confiscated items (excluding tobacco products and e-liquids, which will be disposed of) at the end of the school term or on parent request of disposal
- Vaping devices will be safely disposed of in accordance with electronic waste regulations

6.4 Support for Students

Students found smoking or vaping on school grounds will:

- Be offered 1:1 support from one of our trained smoking cessation advisers or appropriate health professional
- Receive age-appropriate education about the health risks
- Have parents/carers informed and invited to support the intervention
- Be offered access to NHS support services including the NHS Smokefree helpline (0300 123 1044) or online resources at www.nhs.uk/smokefree

6.5 Consequences

If a student is found smoking or vaping on school premises:

- **First incident:** Educational consequence, confiscation of materials, parent/carer contact, offer of support
- **Repeat incidents:** Meeting with SLT and parents/carers to agree a support plan, possible internal consequences in line with the Behaviour Policy
- **Persistent breaches:** Formal behaviour sanctions as outlined in the school's Behaviour Policy, which may include fixed-term suspension in serious cases

The school will always prioritise support and education over punishment, recognising that nicotine addiction requires intervention and assistance.

7. Staff and Employees

7.1 Staff as Role Models

All staff are expected to act as positive role models for students. Staff must not smoke or vape:

- On school premises
- In school vehicles
- Within sight of students
- While on school business

7.2 Enforcement

The enforcement of this total smoking and vaping ban is the responsibility of all staff, with particular responsibility held by designated senior leaders.

7.3 Disciplinary Procedures

Employees who breach the smoking and vaping ban will be subject to disciplinary procedures in accordance with the school's Disciplinary Policy. This may include:

- Informal warning for first breach
- Formal written warning for repeated breaches
- Further disciplinary action for persistent breaches, up to and including dismissal

7.4 Protection for Whistleblowers

Employees who raise genuine concerns about breaches of this policy will be protected from victimisation in accordance with the school's Whistleblowing Policy.

7.5 Support for Staff

The school recognises that smoking and vaping can be addictive and aims to provide a supportive environment for those wishing to quit. Support available includes:

- Information about NHS Stop Smoking Services (0300 123 1044)
- Access to NHS Smokefree online resources and apps
- Occupational health support where available
- Information about nicotine replacement therapy and other cessation aids

8. Vehicles

8.1 School Vehicles

The smoking and vaping ban applies to all school-owned, hired, or leased vehicles at all times, regardless of whether students are present.

8.2 Personal Vehicles

Employees must refrain from smoking or vaping in their own vehicles when:

- Used on school business
- Carrying students or other passengers on school business
- Parked on school premises

9. Visitors, Parents, and Contractors

9.1 Communication

All visitors, parents, carers, and contractors will be informed of this policy:

- Through signage at all entrances
- In the school prospectus and website
- In letters and communications
- Verbally upon arrival if necessary

9.2 Compliance

Visitors, parents, and contractors are expected to comply with this policy at all times while on school premises. Non-compliance may result in:

- Being asked to leave the premises
- Termination of contractor agreements

- Restriction of future access to school premises

10. Signage

10.1 Legal Requirements

In compliance with the Health Act 2006 and subsequent regulations, no-smoking signs will be displayed:

- At every entrance to school buildings
- In prominent positions throughout the premises
- In all school vehicles

10.2 Vaping Signage

Additional signage will clearly indicate that vaping is also prohibited on school premises.

10.3 Sign Specifications

All signs will:

- Meet legal requirements for size and content
- Be clearly visible
- Include both smoking and vaping prohibition symbols
- Be maintained in good condition

11. Education and Publicity

11.1 Student Education

The dangers of tobacco and vaping will be addressed comprehensively through:

- The PSHE/Life Skills curriculum, covering:
 - Health risks of smoking and vaping
 - Nicotine addiction
 - Marketing tactics used by tobacco and vaping industries
 - Peer pressure and refusal skills
 - The smokefree generation legislation
- Science lessons covering the biological effects of smoking and vaping
- Assemblies and tutor time activities
- Guest speakers from health services where appropriate

11.2 Publicity Materials

- Anti-smoking and anti-vaping posters and leaflets will be displayed throughout the school
- Information will be age-appropriate and evidence-based
- Materials will create positive visual messages supporting smoke-free and vape-free lifestyles
- Resources will be regularly updated to reflect current evidence and youth trends

11.3 Parent and Carer Engagement

Parents and carers will be:

- Informed of this policy through the school website and prospectus
- Provided with information about supporting young people to remain smoke-free and vape-free
- Signposted to support services if their child requires help with cessation

12. Monitoring and Review

12.1 Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if:

- There are changes in legislation
- There are changes in DfE guidance
- Monitoring indicates the policy is not effective
- Significant incidents occur

12.2 Monitoring Effectiveness

The effectiveness of this policy will be monitored through:

- Records of incidents involving smoking or vaping
- Student voice and surveys
- Staff feedback
- Health and wellbeing data
- Compliance observations

12.3 Reporting

An annual report on the implementation and effectiveness of this policy will be

provided to governors/trustees.

13. Related Policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Drugs and Alcohol Policy
- Searching, Screening and Confiscation Policy
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Disciplinary Policy

14. Useful Contacts and Resources

For students and staff:

- NHS Smokefree helpline: 0300 123 1044
- NHS Smokefree website: www.nhs.uk/smokefree
- NHS Smokefree app (available free on iOS and Android)

For young people specifically:

- FRANK: 0300 123 6600 or www.talktofrank.com

Information resources:

- Action on Smoking and Health (ASH): www.ash.org.uk
- Public Health England resources on vaping and smoking

For parents and carers:

- NHS guidance on talking to children about smoking and vaping
- School nurse (contact via school office)