

28th February 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Amendments to the Behaviour Policy

Following a review, we have taken the decision to make some amendments to our behaviour policy. Students have been informed of these changes during assemblies this week, so we would now like to share this information with parents and carers; this means that you are kept informed and can understand how best to support the Academy in working with us to get the best outcomes for your child.

Firstly, we have amended the policy on mobile phone usage.

Mobile phones/communication devices are not generally permitted to be used on the Academy site. However, there may be occasions when teaching staff give permission for mobile phones to be used as part of the teaching and learning process during lessons. If a student's mobile phone/communication device goes off, or they are seen using it, without explicit permission from a member of staff, this will be confiscated. If it is the first time that it has been confiscated, it will be returned to the student at the end of the day; on subsequent occasions, parents/carers will need to collect it from reception.

Secondly, we have made changes in relation to smoking/vaping – quite simply it will not be tolerated in school. Our primary aim is always to ensure that the Academy is a safe and positive place for all our students. Like in all communities there are some that deviate from the expectations and standards. We are aware that a very small minority of students have smoked/vaped in school which can impact negatively on the school community, including safe and comfortable access to facilities such as toilets. Therefore, the policy is now:

The Academy operates a strict no smoking policy. This includes within the Academy buildings and grounds as well as on the way to and from school whilst in Academy uniform. This includes the use of e-cigarettes and vapes.

Any student found smoking anywhere on the school site can expect to be punished and any smoking materials will be confiscated.

From 1st October 2015 the law changed so that it became illegal:

- for retailers to sell electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) or e-liquids to someone under 18
- for adults to buy (or try to buy) tobacco products or e-cigarettes for someone under 18

Parents will be informed as soon as possible after the issue has been raised.

Any students caught smoking or in possession of smoking materials will be issued with a fixed term suspension and parents will be invited in for a meeting. At the readmission meeting, the expectation will be that students take on smoking cessation either through the school or externally via parents.

Repeated breaking of this rule will result in further suspension and intervention.

Guidance, regulation, policy and latest research for e cigarettes can be seen via the following government link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/e-cigarettes-and-vaping-policy-regulation-and-guidance#uk-e-cigarettes-regulation>

The policy continues to state that where there is reason to believe that a student is carrying prohibited items such as cigarettes, vapes or other smoking equipment, students will be subject to being searched.

We always aim to work in partnership with parents/carers to help support our students in making positive decisions for themselves and their future. If you have not done so already, we encourage you to discuss both safety concerns and disciplinary consequences for the use of vapes and e-cigarettes at school with your child. We also remind you that students are likely to be permanently excluded should they be found in possession of illegal substances in school.

All other aspects of the Behaviour Policy remain unchanged and in place. It can be viewed in full by following this link [Policies - The Orme Academy](#).

We hope that these changes reassure you that we have the highest expectations for our school community in order to provide a safe environment for all. If you have any questions about these amendments, then please contact the Academy.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Boughey
Principal

