

# Storyy Group Smoking and Vaping Policy

## September 2023

### **Mission Statement**

We are here for any young people who need the help, guidance and support to get back into school, learn important life skills, need a loving roof above their heads or simply find confidence in themselves.

We will pave the way for our young people by offering the widest range of services, celebrating successes, always placing their needs above all else and ensuring that they have their own, achievable pathway.

### **Aims and Objectives of the Policy**

All Storyy Group Provisions are smoke free sites and this includes the use of vapes and e-cigarettes. This aligns with our vision to ensure the best possible outcomes for any child or young person who uses our provisions. This includes our commitment to a smoke-free environment and developing pupils knowledge, attitudes and skills around decision making in relation to smoking and vaping.

The policy aims are objectives are to:

- Ensure all staff and students are aware of the restrictions around smoking and vaping and that our sites are smoke-free
- To ensure all young people have education and interventions around the risks of smoking and vaping. This is incorporated into the PSHE programmes within the provisions and scaled according to age and accessibility
- To provide assistance for pupils and staff who smoke or vape and wish to stop
- To ensure our smoke-free policy is applied when children and young people are taken off site
- Discourage young people from smoking and vaping due to the risks

This policy applies to all staff and students who are using Storyy Group Provisions.

This policy should be viewed in conjunction with the following policies:

Positive Behaviour Policy

Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

Code of Conduct

Health and Safety Policy

## **Rationale**

All members of Storyy Group Provisions have a right to work and learn in a smoke free environment. Smoke free environments include the prohibition of vapes and e-cigarettes. Smoke free sites and non-smoking staff provide positive role model for children and young people and contribute towards a health-promoting environment.

In recent years, there has been an increase in the availability and general awareness of vapes/e-cigarettes. The availability of vapes now offers an alternative route to quitting for many smokers but vapes and e-cigarettes are being widely used by children and young people which presents challenges.

There is clear advice from NICE that vapes and e-cigarettes should not be used by children or young people and the law bans the sale of nicotine products to persons under the age of 18 and bans the proxy purchasing of these products for under 18's by adults.

## **The Smoke-Free Environment**

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any part of any Storyy Group provision's premises or grounds, including the car park, garden areas, playgrounds, playing fields including basketball courts and astroturf pitches, or land adjacent to the provision building. This policy will apply to any future sites that Storyy Group occupies.

There are no designated smoking areas within the provision buildings or grounds as they are smoke-free environments.

The smoke-free policy applies to all events that all staff and students attend off site or any meetings which provision employees are attending off site as part of their work duties. It also applies to any Outreach work provided by Storyy Group staff.

Storyy Group are committed to displaying our dedication to the smoke free environment with the use of posters and signage within our buildings as a visual reminder.

Smoking or vaping is not permitted in any vehicle used to transport students or in any vehicle which is owned or hired by Storyy Group.

The smoke-free environment also prohibits the sale or distribution of smoking or vaping paraphernalia between students.

Any visitors will be advised that Storyy Group Provisions are a smoke-free site.

## **Smoking/Vaping Prevention for Students**

- Students are not permitted to smoke/vape during their sessions with Storyy Group. This includes but is not limited to; in provision buildings, in the leisure facilities or grounds surrounding the provisions, in provision car parks, in staff's cars or Storyy Group vehicles, when they are off site with provision staff, during Outreach sessions.
- Smoking and vaping education is part of Storyy Group's PSHE commitment.
- Students who wish to stop smoking/vaping will be given guidance and, if appropriate, referred on to external smoking cessation services for support
- Parents/Carers will be kept informed about their child's smoking/vaping interventions and education.
- Students host school will be informed about any smoking/vaping incidents and may choose to enforce sanctions in accordance with their policy.
- Students are not permitted to bring smoking or vaping paraphernalia into a Storyy Group provision. Students will be requested to hand this over at the start of the day and place this in a lockable box for the duration of the session. Students may be subject to searches and confiscation as outlined in the Positive Behaviour Policy and in accordance with Government guidance.

## **Smoking/Vaping Guidelines for Staff**

- Staff must not smoke/vape in view of students.
- Staff are not permitted to smoke/vape within the smoke-free environment parameters as stipulated
- Staff will be permitted to one 'smoking/vaping' break throughout the day. This must be off site and for no longer than 15 minutes.
- Staff who breach the policy will be subject to disciplinary proceedings
- Staff who wish to cease smoking/vaping will be offered support to do so and signposted to local smoking cessation services

## **Responding to Incidents of Smoking/Vaping**

- The Provision Manager will liaise with the young persons host school around persistent incidents of smoking or vaping; in this instance persistency is defined as three or more separate incidents of vaping in a session. The Provision Manager is able to arrange for a child's session to be ended prematurely due to a persistent breach and a discussion will be held regarding any further sanctions which may include implementing the host schools exclusion policy.
- If vaping/smoking is suspected to be linked to other substance abuse or any other safeguarding concerns this will be treated in accordance with the Safeguarding Policy

- If there is an incident of an adverse reaction associated with vaping this should be reported to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Industry via the Yellow Card Scheme.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

This policy will be reviewed annually. It will be widely published and available to all staff, parents, carers and students.

Policy Reviewed by Natalie Lee, April 2024

Review Date: April 2025